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Title

MOTHMAN: The Facts Behind the Legend

Expanded Edition

By Donnie Sergeant Jr

Copyright

MOTHMAN: The Facts Behind the Legend Expanded Edition

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Edition

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Dedication

For the hardworking people of Point Pleasant, West Virginia, past and present.

And, in loving memory of Linda Scarberry, Marcella Bennett, Bob Roach, Rick Patrick and John Keel.

Never forgotten.

Preface

You will now have the ability to carry with you a wealth of investigative information on your favorite eBook reader or mobile device for the first time while on location at the various locations mentioned within this book. From a brief glimpse into the history of our historic town to the descriptions and detailed accounts of eyewitnesses and journalists of the time, it's all here. This expanded edition contains seven more chapters than the original publication as it has been combined with the CD ROM edition of the book (No longer in print) and expanded on still yet from there with information, as well as photos. Also included here for the first time is the complete transcription of the exclusive interview I conducted with Mothman author John Keel, as well as my exclusive interview with actor Will Patton. I hope you enjoy the book and find it a useful and entertaining in-the-pocket companion in your research of the mysterious Mothman and tourism locations in our town.

This book is a documentary of the Mothman phenomena, spanning past and present. The interviews and clippings in this book have never before been published as a collection. To say this book was exciting to work on would be an understatement for me. The website was a lot of fun, as well. Through the Mothmanlives.com website, and my collaboration with Will Patton concerning his role in the Mothman movie from Sony Pictures, I've become acquainted with some very kind and interesting people I would have otherwise never come to know. I hope you enjoy the book and be sure to check the website for new, exciting news about the Mothman of Point Pleasant, WV.

- Donnie Sergeant Jr

Prologue

Although the Mothman legacy began on a chilly, fall night in 1966, it has become the makings of a legend. It has grown into a phenomenon known all over the world by millions of curious people asking the question "What really happened?" "What did these people see?" "Has it been seen since?" Nothing has sparked the world's imagination and curiosity as has the mystery behind Point Pleasant, West Virginia's Mothman.

It's no secret that the Mothman legend has been, and always will be, a part of the small town of Point Pleasant. Stories of Mothman "search parties" armed with rifles and searchlights were almost a social gathering for residents in the months following the very first Mothman sighting in November of 1966. Even though I was only 5 years old, I have heard the stories told to me by my mother. My father worked as a full-time officer in the National Guard Armory located directly in the TNT area until it's relocation to the current location on WV ST RT 62, north of the city. Cars lined up for miles and patrolled the TNT area in hopes of a glimpse, or quick sighting, of the Mothman or "big bird" as some called it. News crews from the world over flocked to 30th street in upper Point Pleasant to get the scoop on the Mothman story and to be the first to get to talk to Linda Scarberry and the others who first sighted the creature. My family lived 5 houses up from Linda's parents and from what I have been told it was a media circus with everyone trying to get the exclusive story on the Mothman sightings.

Throughout the years since the Mothman story began, the curiosity has always been there. Passing down from generation to generation, developing into an almost "folklore" story that seems to get bigger even as the years flow by. It seems as though everyone has a Mothman story or experience to tell about, and to the curious it all but makes the Mothman legacy much bigger now than it was all those years ago. In time, the world had come to ask, "What is the real story behind the Mothman legend?"

Throughout the initial period of the Mothman incidents hundreds of UFO sightings in the tri-county area were reported by residents claiming to have seen strange, bright lights and unexplainable flying objects in the skies.

Many believe that it's not a coincidence that the Mothman and UFO sightings were reported so close together and relatively in the same areas.

Was it just paranoia or was there really something in the skies? The UFO reports were obviously too numerous to ignore with sighting reports appearing daily in the local papers as the press clippings in this book illustrate. . . You be the judge.

In October of 2000, Donnie and I were discussing the Mothman legacy and planning some new designs and ideas for the Mothman merchandise. It seemed as if almost daily we were being asked about Mothman in one way or the other by many of the customers in our Point Pleasant store location. These customers were a mix of locals and out-of-towners. A lot of these were questions about the location of TNT area. Did we know anyone who actually saw the Mothman? The answer is yes. What did it look like? Was it still around? I thought about having Donnie create a Mothman website designed to basically answer the questions in cyberspace in addition to providing all the crucial information many are wanting to know about the Mothman legend.

A few days later, I picked up the phone, called Donnie, and ran the idea of an information-based Mothman website by him. Donnie founded the IT Company "The Sergeant Company", currently maintains several websites, and is the Management Information Systems (MIS) Officer at a Point Pleasant area government business. He worked on the Criminal Records website a few days each week, taking the website to new levels and turning my dream of the store's presence on the Internet into a reality. Literally within an hour after I called him with the Mothman idea, Donnie calls me back and is telling me how he has our www.mothmanlives.com website already up and running. And, within only days the site had attracted tens of thousands of curious visitors from all over the world. We knew at that moment that the Mothman legend was bigger than ever.

This book is strictly a documentary presentation about the Mothman sightings and facts about Point Pleasant, West Virginia. Its contents are the product of extensive research and hours of hard work and planning. We decided from day one that this project would contain factual information and nothing contrived or embellished. Was there such a thing as Mothman? You can decide based upon what we present in this book. We are not

interested in convincing anyone that Mothman is real or a hoax. In any case, we present you with one of a kind press clippings and documents, exclusive interviews, and first hand reports from those who claim to have seen the creature. And lots of other extremely rare findings that all have an integral part in explaining what really spawned the Mothman phenomena.

-Jeff Wamsley

**Brief History of Mason County "Mason County -
Formed in 1804 from parts of Kanawha County
and named for George Mason, author of the
Constitution of Virginia and a member of the
convention that framed the Constitution of the
United States. This county comprised part of the
proposed colony of Vandalia, the capital of which
was to be Point Pleasant. Among the earliest
visitors to the area were LaSalle in 1669 and
Washington in 1770. The leading industrial and
agricultural products are electric power, coal,
polyester resins, plastic film, flame retardant
plasterizers, synthetic hydraulic fluids and
lubricants, salt, hay, grain, tobacco, livestock,
dairy products, poultry, fruit and vegetables.
Point Pleasant, the county seat, was named for**

Camp Point Pleasant, established by General Andrew Lewis in 1774. Located at the confluence of the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers, this is where Lewis and his men fought Chief Cornstalk during Lord Dunmore's War. This was the bloodiest battle ever fought between the Indians and white settlers and many claim this to be the first battle of the American Revolution. Tu-Endie-Wei State Park is the burial ground of Chief Cornstalk and frontierswoman "Mad" Ann Bailey."

The information within the quotation marks above was quoted from the official website of the West Virginia Division of Tourism (<http://www.callwva.com>) on September 4, 2001.

-Donnie Sergent Jr

The Battle of Point Pleasant, West Virginia

At the confluence of the Kanawha and Ohio Rivers, the bloody, daylong Battle of Point Pleasant, West Virginia was fought. On October 10, 1774, Colonel Andrew Lewis' 1,100 Virginia militiamen decisively defeated a like number of Indians lead by Shawnee Chieftain Cornstalk. Considered a landmark of frontier history, the battle is considered by most to be the first of the American Revolution. This action broke the power of the ancient Americans in the Ohio Valley and quelled a general Indian war in the frontier. Significantly, it also prevented an alliance between the British and the Indians, one which could have caused the Revolution to have a very different outcome, altering the entire history of the United States. In addition, the ensuing peace with the Indians enabled western Virginians to return across the Allegheny Mountains to aid revolutionary forces.

When Lord Dunmore (John Murray) was appointed governor of Virginia in 1771, he was ordered to discourage settlement of the lands beyond the mountains to the west. This action was motivated in part by the British government's desire to pacify the Indians by preventing encroachment on their hunting grounds and partly to preserve a profitable fur trade with the Ohio Valley tribes.

The westward migration proved difficult to halt when more and more restless settlers poured over the Alleghenies. The continued invasion aroused the native population. Their anger turned into bloody warfare early in 1774 when a group of settlers murdered the entire family of Logan, a friendly Mingo chief, opposite the mouth of Yellow Creek in Hancock County. Logan was so enraged that he led his tribe on the warpath, he himself taking 30 white scalps and prisoners in revenge.

Unfortunate clashes between the encroaching pioneers and the Indians continued with increasing frequency and savagery. Both white and red men were guilty of unthinkable atrocities including murder, kidnapping, and infanticide.

Lord Dunmore ordered the border militia organized. Colonel Andrew Lewis, a veteran of the French and Indian Wars, was appointed commander of the Virginia troops. By carrying the fight to the Indians, Dunmore, a Tory, hoped to divert Virginians from the trouble brewing in England.

In September 1774, Dunmore signed peace treaties with the Delaware and Six Nations of the Iroquois at Pittsburgh. He then started down the Ohio River to give battle to the fierce Shawnee. Under Cornstalk, the Shawnee tribe had allied itself with Logan's Mingo to turn the frontier "red with Long Knives' blood." Meanwhile, Lewis' army had marched from Fort Union (Lewisburg) to the point of the confluence of the Great Kanawha and Ohio Rivers. He then established camp to await Dunmore's arrival from the north.

This Pincer movement was thwarted when Cornstalk abandoned his Ohio River Villages north of Point Pleasant before Dunmore's forces arrived. He then attacked Lewis while the white forces were still divided, and they engaged in a bloody battle characterized by a succession of individual hand-to-hand combats. Fought on this point of land known by the Wyandotte Indian phrase "tu-endie-wei," or "the point between two waters," the battle raged all day. At times Cornstalk and his braves held the upper hand, but eventually the firepower of the backwoodsmen proved superior on the, then, heavily forested battlefield. At the end, 230 Indians were killed or wounded and more than 50 Virginians had lost their lives, including Colonel Charles Lewis, brother of the commanding officer.

Some say that before Chief Cornstalk died, he uttered a curse, a curse for the immediate area (Point Pleasant) to be stricken with hard times and sorrow for what they had done to his people. The curse was rumored to last 200 years. This cannot be confirmed, for there are no documents recording these words, but many locals hold it as truth. Some believe the Mothman is a part of that curse.

-Donnie Sergeant Jr

Fort Randolph

Fort Randolph at Krodell Park in Point Pleasant, West Virginia was officially dedicated by West Virginia Governor Arch A. Moore on October 10, 1974. This was the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Point Pleasant. Fort Randolph is a large, wooden fort that was originally built in 1776 at the point where the Ohio and Great Kanawha Rivers meet. It was a well-known outpost throughout the colonies and stood to prevent attacks on the colonies from the West during the first three years of the American Revolution. It also played a significant role in preventing an Indian Alliance with the British during the American Revolution.

-Donnie Sargent Jr

Summarized History of the TNT Area

The McClintic Wildlife Area, also known to locals as the TNT Area, was the backdrop of the first reported Mothman Sightings in Point Pleasant, West Virginia. It has since been a place of mystery and intrigue. The area is currently a state-owned WMA (Wildlife Management Area) and set up for public hunting, fishing and camping. It is open to the general public for all to enjoy. So, if you visit, be sure to bring your fishing poles. I had to get that comment in for the folks at the WMA Office. I made them a promise.

I have fished in the TNT area all my life (31 years at the original book release, 45 years at the expanded eBook release). I have caught a variety of fish there including largemouth bass, crappie, northern pike, muskellunge, rock bass, and a variety of pan fish. It's simply a nice place to visit and enjoy. I encourage everyone who hasn't seen it to visit and take a look around.

Some people don't share my enthusiasm about the TNT Area, however. The reports of the Mothman and the UFOs have taken their toll on many would-be visitors. I will be the first to admit that the TNT Area is a bit eerie at night. But, what can you expect from a huge Wildlife Management Area? What sets this one apart from all others is the inclusion of the "igloos" scattered throughout. If you do come to visit, please be careful around the igloos and ponds. They are not places to be careless, and can be very dangerous. That said, enjoy the history of the TNT Area, below.

During World War II, a lot of states were doing their part for the war efforts. In Mason County West Virginia, the McClintic Wildlife Area was transformed into one such place. Just six miles north of the small town of Point Pleasant, WV on State Route 62, an area was created to help war efforts by way of the manufacturing of TNT and around one hundred above-ground bunkers, or "igloos", in which to store the TNT and other wartime products. The igloos were constructed of steel reinforced concrete, with ventilation shafts atop them. Each igloo was covered with dirt, which in turn was sewn with grass seed. The grass blended perfectly with the surrounding landscape, hiding the igloos from any air surveillance by enemy spies. Each igloo had a massive steel door, capable of withstanding

tremendous blasts by enemy fire of bombs. Below is a government EPA description of the area:

"The West Virginia Ordnance National Priority List (NPL) site is located near Point Pleasant, West Virginia. It is a 8,320-acre site used by the Army from 1942 to 1945 to produce TNT (trinitrotoluene). Soils around the operation's industrial area, process facilities, and industrial wastewater disposal system were contaminated with the TNT explosive, its by-products, and asbestos. When the site was decontaminated and decommissioned in 1945, the Army deeded the industrial portion to West Virginia, stipulating that it be used for wildlife management. The State created the McClintic State Wildlife Management Area on 2,785 acres, and the area is now used for recreational purposes. Other non-industrial portions of the original parcel are owned by the county or by private citizens. In 1981, Red Water seepage (liquid waste produced during the TNT manufacturing process) was observed near Pond 13 on the wildlife station. EPA and State investigations revealed that the groundwater and surface water were contaminated with explosive nitroaromatics. Buried lines associated with TNT manufacturing contained some crystalline TNT."

After World War II, sections of the TNT Area were sold or leased to a handful of different companies, including the study of biochemistry. Many tests have been run on the area, searching for contaminants in the area's soil and water. The report released by the EPA is listed below:

"Groundwater, seepage, soils, and the surface water on-site are contaminated with explosive nitroaromatic compounds including TNT, trinitrobenzene, and dinitrotoluene from former site operations as well as metals, including arsenic, lead and beryllium. Visitors to the wildlife management area may be exposed to contaminants by direct contact with or accidental ingestion of contaminated surface water or soils. The shallow groundwater has been shown to be contaminated and is moving toward nearby private residences with wells. No nitroaromatics have been detected in any of the 13 local water supply wells, but sewer lines, pits, and open manholes may contain reactive wastes, which may pose a safety and chemical hazard to people entering the site."

After finding the above, the EPA went to work cleaning up the area, making it a safe place for public recreation. The cleanup process released by the

EPA is listed below:

"The Remedial Actions (RAs) are being implemented by the Army Corp of Engineers as the lead agency for this site. The remedies selected to address the source of contamination are: (1) in-place flaming of reactive TNT residue on soil surfaces and installation of a 2-foot soil cover over highly contaminated areas; (2) disposal of asbestos off-site; and (3) excavation of reactive sewer lines, flashing of explosives, and backfilling of trenches from which lines are removed. These site cleanup activities are now complete. After completing these cleanup activities, the Army conducted an investigation and determined that damages occurred to natural resources (wetlands) during cleanup. As a result, replacement wetlands are now being constructed on a portion of the Site.

In 1991, cleanup activities began at the Red Water and Yellow Water Reservoir. Remedies include relocating Ponds 1 and 2, filling and capping the original Ponds 1 and 2, and extracting and treating the groundwater. The groundwater pump and treat system is installed and the final inspection was completed February of 1997.

The remedies originally selected to treat the Pond 13 wet well contamination has been determined to be technically impracticable. Subsequent investigations have determined that the contamination in this area is localized in discrete areas and remediation is being planned as a removal action.

A ROD for OU-11(Sellite Manufacturing Area) was completed during FY 2000. The risk assessment for OU-11 determined the risk to be within the acceptable EPA risk range which will result in a "No Action" ROD. Risk assessments for all currently identified OUs have been submitted for review. Also, all site investigation reports have been submitted for review. Additionally, the Point Pleasant Landfill has been identified as an area of concern by EPA, and is being considered for further investigation. EPA is working with the lead agency and the WVDEP to develop proposed plans and RODs for OU-10 (South Acids Area, Toluene Storage Area, and the Cooling Tower Area) and OU-12 (North and South Powerhouses). These proposed plans and RODs should be available for public comment in FY 2002.

Additional early actions that have been completed at the site include: removal of drums, soil, and debris from the "Toxic Swamp" area completed in 1994; removal of asbestos from the North and South Power Houses, Power Houses demolished and open pits and manholes filled completed in January of 1995; and removal of 32 drums from the OU-11 Sellite Mfg. Area in 1999. Recently, Decision Documents were completed which indicated no further investigation or remedial actions will be necessary at four sites. The Site names are Tract 21 Area, Refueling Depot, Sewage treatment plant outfall, and the Washout Area."

Further information concerning the EPA and this area can be found by going to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's website on the Internet here: <http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/wvord/pad.htm>

The detailed Administrative Record can be examined at the following location:

Mason County Public Library

Sixth and Viand Streets

Point Pleasant, WV 25550

The above information concerning the TNT area was taken directly from the public website of the EPA at the Internet address above on July 31, 2001. Changes may have occurred since this publication.

-Donnie Sergent Jr

The Silver Bridge Disaster The Silver Bridge, a state-of-the-art suspension bridge, was built in 1928 spanning the Ohio River. It connected the cities of Point Pleasant, West Virginia and Gallipolis, Ohio. A new type of high carbon steel was developed and used for the construction of the bridge. The premise for the construction of the bridge was a chain design. The bridge collapsed in December of 1967. It was toward late evening and the weather looked like snow was about to fall. 37 cars and trucks fell into the river. It was the worst road bridge disaster in U.S. history. The United States Army pulled 46 bodies from the river. At first, it was thought that a river barge had collided with one of the bridge supports. Another theory was that the weight of the holiday traffic had caused the collapse, due to so many vehicles on the bridge at the same time. A government investigator, who was also a metals expert, was called in to examine the remains of the bridge, which had been pulled from the river by the Army Corp of Engineers. The investigator immediately spotted something suspicious. One of the eye bars was broken in two at the circular eye. It took a massive search by a team of Army divers to recover the other half of the circular eye. When the investigator studied the new-found piece of the eye bar, he determined that there had been a flaw in the eye bar since the day it was forged in 1926. There was a pre-existing crack in the eye itself. This flaw resulted in the failure of the eye years later. The weather had gradually deteriorated the steel, widening the crack in the eye, weakening it to the point of breaking. When the single eye

of the link failed, it caused a chain reaction. The weight of the bridge was too much for the link on the opposite side of the bridge to bear. Within seconds, the mighty Silver Bridge collapsed in a domino effect fashion, taking cars, trucks and passengers with it.

The Silver Bridge had stood for 41 years.

The fall of the Silver Bridge prompted the United States Government to create a National Bridge Inspection Program. This program paid particular attention to bridges constructed of the same high-strength steel as the Silver Bridge in the 1920s. The new Silver Memorial Bridge now stands a short distance away from the original location of the Silver Bridge. My mother and her mother made it safely back across the Silver Bridge into Point Pleasant just ten minutes before it collapsed. They had been in Ohio looking for a Christmas tree. My father was working at a local lumber company in Point Pleasant, WV when the bridge fell. He and a coworker rounded the corner of a street a couple hundred yards from the bridge. My father's coworker said, "Oh my God Donnie, the bridge is gone." They sat there in their car transfixed as they looked at the empty space where the bridge was just minutes before. My father told me there were cars scattered on the streets with doors wide open; people running toward the fallen bridge. This was a sad time in our area and my heart goes out to all family and friends of those who were affected by the collapse.

-Donnie Sergeant Jr

The Linda Scarberry Interview

Exclusive Interview with the Original Mothman Eyewitness.

This book is to be used as a reference guide to facts about the Mothman, mainly to satisfy the questions thousands of people have asked me via the Internet already. In no way do we intend to prove the Mothman to be real or myth. This is up to you to decide after being presented with the known facts. I have gathered information from many sources to compile the most in-depth collection possible of materials concerning the Mothman. The most interesting of all these are the actual newspaper clippings and my interview with Linda Scarberry. Linda offered Jeff and me authentic newspaper clippings, which she had cut out and compiled, dating back to 1966 to use in this documentary. This collection is like nothing I have ever seen. To be able to see the actual clippings was thrilling, and intriguing. Now, you can see them, too, later in the book.

I went to high school with Linda's daughter, Dani, and spoke with her about the Mothman incidents as well. Dani wasn't old enough to remember much of what went on back then, as she was very young. After I concluded the interview, Dani was amazed at the information her mother had disclosed to me.

"She has never told anyone some of this stuff," Dani told me. "Some of it, I didn't even know. She must really trust you."

It was November, 1966. The town of Point Pleasant, West Virginia was about to be shaken by a series of events like nothing else on the face of the earth. Linda Scarberry, was one of the first people at the scene of the first Mothman sighting in the area. Below is the transcribed interview I did with Linda on July 11, 2001. Take a journey back to that horror-filled night as Linda brings the past to the present in her first ever full-length, publicly released interview of her complete accounts of the Mothman. Follow along through all the accounts, directly from the source. Let your eyes and ears be deceived by "hear-say" no longer. Finally, the entire, true story is available. This is a piece of history and accumulation of events that scientists, reporters, authors, and many officials have been trying to uncover for decades. It is now at your fingertips.

Linda relayed her intent to me of getting the true story out in the open, once and for all, to clear up any "stories" that were floating around about what she saw, and has seen since. This was a huge concern of hers.

"If there's going to be a movie about it," Linda said, "I want everyone to know what really happened."

I would like to take this space in the book to say "Thank You" to Linda for her trust and honesty, and to let the world know how kind and sincere this woman truly is. What follows is an unrivaled account of what happened back during the early years of the Mothman sightings, and some very eerie accounts of what has happened since. My interview with Linda was transcribed by me and has been proofread by Linda. This is that interview.

For the purpose of privacy, Linda's current last name has been withheld.

Donnie Sergeant Jr: "For the record, please state your full name now and what your married name was back in 1966."

Linda: "I would rather keep my current name private. My married name in 1966 was Linda Scarberry."

Donnie: "First of all, thank you very much Linda for offering to do this exclusive interview with me. National investigators and journalists have tried to get this exclusive full-length interview and, understandably, you have declined in the past years for fear that your words would be twisted or changed. I understand that you've trusted only a couple of people with this information in the past, but have never given an extensive, detailed interview to anyone. Thank you for keeping this information honest, and thank you for your trust."

Linda: "You're welcome. Thank you for doing the interview."

Donnie: "First, let's clear something up for everyone. There is a lot of speculation about the use of drugs and alcohol when this creature was sighted. Were you using drugs or alcohol when you first sighted the Mothman in the TNT area?"

Linda: "Absolutely not. No one in the car at the time of the sighting was drinking or using drugs of any kind."

Donnie: "A lot of national paranormal investigators, as well as other people, are curious to know what the atmosphere was like on that eerie night in the

TNT area. Would you describe the time, date, and the general weather on the evening when you first sighted the Mothman?"

Linda: "It was cold and around 11:30PM, November 15th, 1966. Both couples in the car that night were married. We (Linda, her ex-husband, and their two friends) were just out chasing parkers. It wasn't raining, or foggy, at all. It was a very clear, cold night."

Donnie: "This creature has been described by many people. There have been many different reports of what the Mothman looks like. Would you describe, in detail, what it looked like? Its head, body, wings, etc..."

Linda: "It was about seven feet tall. It had wings that were visible on its back; the tips of the wings could be seen above its shoulders. The body of it was like a slender, muscular man, and was flesh-colored. Its wings were an ashen white in color. The wings looked like angel wings. Its face couldn't be seen, because the eyes simply hypnotized you when you looked into them. You didn't have to look directly into them. If you looked close to its face, your eyes were just drawn to its eyes. It wasn't that it didn't have a head, it was just that when your eyes got close to its head and neck area, the eyes consumed your vision, and you couldn't see anything but them. It had arms and legs, like a muscular man. When we first saw it, we had just topped a hill in the TNT area, and when the headlights of our car hit it, it looked directly at us, as if it was scared. It had one of its wings caught in a guide wire near a section of road close to the power plant, and was pulling on its wing with its hands, trying to free itself. Its hands were really big. It was really scared. We stopped the car and sat still while it was trying to free itself from the wire. We didn't sit there long, just long enough to scare it, I think. It seemed to think we were going to hurt it. We were all screaming, "Go! Go! Go!" But, we couldn't perform the actual action of leaving the scene. It was like we were hypnotized. It finally got its wing loose from the wire and ran into the power plant. I felt sorry for it. We talked about it with Mr. Keel and Mr. Drasin. We thought it might have been some sort of machine or something, possibly being controlled by the UFOs or whatever was in them. But, it was too much like an animal for that. Its movements were too smooth. It wasn't a machine."

Donnie: "Did it make any distinctive sounds?"

Linda: "It didn't make any sounds, at all, when we saw it that time."

Donnie: "After the shock of the initial sighting, were you more afraid of the creature's presence in the area or more inclined to find out more about it?"

Linda: "At first we were afraid of it. After it was out of sight, we wanted to know more about it. But, we didn't want to get very close to it, because we weren't sure whether or not it would try to hurt us. It had many opportunities that night to kill us, if it had wanted to. It seemed to me that it was more scared than anything."

Donnie: "How long after you initially sighted the creature did you go to the police? And, what was their initial reaction to your report?"

Linda: "We went to the police about a half-hour after we initially sighted it. They didn't believe us, at first. They thought we were crazy, or on drugs. A lot of other people did, too. But, after they saw how scared we were, and found out that we weren't drinking, or on drugs, they started to believe us. We wouldn't have gone to the police, but it kept following us. We saw it sitting in different places as we drove back down Route 62 toward Point Pleasant, and saw it sitting in various places once we got in town, too. It was as if it was letting us know that it could catch up to us, no matter where we went, or how fast we went there. When we first left the TNT area, it was sitting on the sign when we went around the bend and when the headlights hit it, it went straight up into the air, very fast. That's when it followed us and hit the top of the car two or three times while we were going over one hundred miles per hour down Route 62, toward Point Pleasant. The last place we saw it was sitting on top of the flood wall. It was sitting crouched down, with its arms around its legs and its wings tucked against its back. It didn't seem scared, then. I guess it figured out that we weren't going to hurt it, so it followed us. We didn't know what else to do, but go to the police station."

Donnie: "Did you have any strange or unusual feelings or reactions during the sighting?"

Linda: "We were all scared. It was like the creature was trying to communicate with us. We didn't know what was going on. We kept asking each other if we saw the same thing. We were confused and scared. We didn't have any odd feelings at all that night except being very scared. We didn't know what to do, where it came from, or what it was going to do."

Donnie: "Have you seen the Mothman since the initial sighting?"

Linda: "Yes. I saw it after that, on several occasions."

Donnie: "What sticks out in your mind as the most memorable detail about any of the sightings?"

Linda: "Two occasions stick out in my mind, very vividly. The first is when it was trying to free itself on the first night I saw it in the TNT area by pulling on its wing with its hands. The second was about a month after we first saw it, when we lived on 13th Street. The roof slanted down at an angle from the upstairs bedroom window. I looked out that window one night and it was sitting on the roof, close to the window. It was sitting down with its arms around its legs and wings folded around itself, like it was trying to keep warm. It had its head turned sideways, looking in through the window, as if it was curious. By then, I had figured out that it didn't want to hurt me. I could just tell by the way it looked at me. I was very curious and wanted to try to communicate with it, but I still didn't know what it was, or where it came from, and was a little scared of it, still. It looked so lonely, but not scared anymore. It looked cold, too. It was really cold out that night."

Donnie: "Where do you believe it came from, or how did it originate?"

Linda: "I'm still not sure. The only thing I can think of is it was sent here to distract us from other things going on at the time. Maybe from another planet. Maybe from another country. I'm not sure. There was more going on at this time than just the Mothman sightings. There were UFO reports. And, more importantly, Men in Black reports that were far less reported than either of the other two. People were afraid of reporting the MIB. I don't know that I believe in flying saucers, but I have seen UFOs on many occasions. That doesn't make them flying saucers, but no one ever explained what all of them were to any of us in the town."

Donnie: "Do you believe UFOs were in any way involved with the Mothman?"

Linda: "Oh yeah. They were so pretty. I saw one that looked like a blooming rose. It was all different colors, like the petals were coming out of it in all directions. And, the colors weren't anything like we would have; they were much brighter, simply beautiful."

Donnie: "There were reports of satanic rituals being performed in the TNT area, years ago. Do you believe satanic rituals in the TNT area were in any way involved with the Mothman?"

Linda: "No. Not at all. We saw those people up there a couple of times. They always scattered when we came back by for the second time. They had a cross up on a tree out there one night when we drove by. When we drove back by, it was gone and so were they."

Donnie: "Do you believe the U.S. Government was involved in a cover-up concerning UFOs and the Mothman in the Point Pleasant area?"

Linda: "Oh yeah. I think so."

Donnie: "Without revealing their names, how many people do you know personally who have seen the Mothman? And, have they seen it on more than one occasion?"

Linda: "Thirty to forty people. And, yes, they have."

Donnie: "Do you believe there is more than one of these creatures?"

Linda: "I didn't until about a month and a half after we first sighted it. There were two power plants, the North Power Plant, and the South Power Plant, one on each side of the main road. We were up there with John Keel and some other people. Mary Hyre saw the Mothman on the other side of one of the cars parked there at the same time a girl from Mason, West Virginia saw it inside the power plant with John Keel. Mr. Keel, however, didn't see the creature. So, we thought there may be two of them. But, after we talked about it, we couldn't put the time lines together exactly right, so it may have moved from one place to the other very fast. We could never be sure. Both people who saw it described the exact same thing."

Donnie: "Do you feel that the creature has/had good or evil intentions?"

Linda: "I don't think it ever had evil intentions. It had numerous chances to harm, or even kill me and some other people, but it didn't. I know one woman who saw it, and she said it chased her and her family into their house. But, I think they were just scared, like we were when we first saw it, and thought it would try to hurt them. I think its main intention was to not get hurt itself. A lot of people tried to kill it, or capture it. I don't think it would have hurt anybody or anything. There was a rash of dog and animal

killings and a lot of dogs that started turning up missing. A lot of people blamed that on the Mothman, but I don't think it was him. I think it was a person around the area doing all that."

Donnie: "What do you believe the creature's purpose was or is?"

Linda: "To distract everyone from the MIB and the UFOs that were in the area at the time."

Donnie: "Do you believe the Mothman was in any way linked to the collapse of the Silver Bridge? For example, do you believe the creature caused it to fall, or did it try to warn people about the upcoming tragedy?"

Linda: "I don't think it caused it to fall nor had anything to do with it. If people saw it when the bridge fell, I would say the MIB had something to do with it drawing everyone's attention away from whatever they were doing. I do think the MIB had something to do with the collapse of the Silver Bridge. I was down on the river bank after the bridge fell. There were policemen everywhere, National Guard, emergency squads, cranes, all kinds of that type of stuff. I didn't see it, but I was told later that someone saw a few of the MIB standing around after the bridge fell."

Donnie: "I received an e-mail from the last tractor trailer driver across the bridge before it fell. He told me that he saw the Mothman fly around the front of his truck and looked for it in the sky, but it was gone, fast. Did you ever see the Mothman around the Silver Bridge area?"

Linda: "No. I believe it would have made sense, though. The Mothman would have been used to divert peoples' attention away from something the MIB were doing close by. There could have been something there the MIB didn't want that truck driver to see."

Donnie: "Do you believe the Mothman was in any way linked to the curse of Chief Cornstalk?"

Linda: "Go down through this town and you'll think everything's linked to that. I don't think it had anything to do with the Mothman, but I believe the curse had an effect on the town. Businesses started closing up left and right, all at once."

Donnie: "Do you believe the igloos in the TNT area could have been used as nesting or hiding spots for the Mothman?"

Linda: "I think it's possible, but I doubt it. I think it stayed in the caves behind the TNT area. John Keel thought so, too. I know a lady that lived there at the time, and she saw it in that area several times. She agreed that it was probably spending most of its time in the caves in that area. The Mothman chased her daughter into their house. She thought it was trying to hurt the child, but again, I disagreed with her. It scared them pretty bad, but it was probably just trying to communicate with them."

Donnie: "How have the Mothman sightings affected your personal life?"

Linda: "None of us have ever been the same after the first sighting. I still look over my shoulder. I feel like there's something behind me, or in the room with me. I still dream about it, after 35 years. It's just something people will never be able to forget. It's really hard to talk about it, because a lot of people don't believe it. I've come to the point to where I really don't care if anyone believes me or not. If this thing is going to be made into a movie, I want the truth to be available for people to read or hear. The only people who haven't made fun of us is you, John Keel, Mary Hyre, and Dan Drasin. All the other reporters and news crews have made us out to be a bunch of kids that were drunk or on drugs up there that night. The police know that's not true, and so do we. So, what the others print and say is no concern of mine. I won't mention any names, but several people think the MIB had a hand in Mary Hyre's death. She died of a heart attack, but some think it was more than that. Mary knew a lot about the UFO situation and reports, as well as the MIB."

Donnie: "How did you get in touch with John Keel? And, did he believe your story?"

Linda: "He got in touch with us. He and Dan Drasin contacted us about the sightings. John Keel believed us, because he'd taken similar reports of the UFO and Mothman sightings before contacting us. He believed every word of what we said. He never saw the Mothman. He never got to see it before he left the area. However, he did see the UFOs in the area."

Donnie: "Why do you believe all the other reports, including those such as birds like wild cranes and large owls, are not what you have seen? What is different about the creature you saw compared to all the so-called "scientifically explainable" reports that have been made?"

Linda: "They looked nothing like what we saw. Someone killed a huge, white owl in the area and reporters flocked to the scene to report that the Mothman had been captured, at last. I felt like just sitting down and crying. You could tell by looking at the owl that it wasn't what was being reported. It wasn't nearly as big, and it was a bird. What we saw was no bird, much less an owl or a crane. Its body wasn't even close to either of those. I could see the muscles in the arms and legs of the Mothman. They were human-like. Not even close to a bird of any kind."

Donnie: "What would you say to someone who says the creature never existed?"

Linda: "I would say they could believe what they wanted to believe. It doesn't matter to me anymore if someone believes me or not. I just want people who do know that this was more than a bird to have the facts before it all gets blown out of proportion again."

Donnie: "If someone sees this creature, would you rather have them report the sighting to the authorities, or just keep it to themselves, enabling the creature to remain in seclusion?"

Linda: "I'd rather people keep it to themselves if they see it. It will just draw attention to wherever it is at the moment, and possibly get it killed. It had every chance in the world to harm us, and it didn't. I think if it was left alone it wouldn't bother anyone, now. I don't think it wants anything now; it just doesn't have anywhere where it belongs. It was used for a diversion tactic when all the UFOs and MIB were around, and it was just left after it was all over. I think it's lonesome. But, people are afraid of it, and will try to kill it if its location is disclosed, so I'd rather everyone keep the sightings to themselves. I know if I ever see it again, I won't say a word."

Donnie: "As of this very moment, Wednesday July 11, 2001, do you think the creature is still in the Point Pleasant area?"

Linda: "No. I think it's still around, but not around this area."

Donnie: "Do you believe this creature will ever be captured, or photographed?"

Linda: "No. I think it's too smart and fast to be captured. It may be photographed someday, but I doubt it. I don't think anyone is going to try to capture it. I think they'll try to kill it"

Donnie: "Why do you think the mystery of the Mothman still intrigues people after thirty-five years?"

Linda: "I don't know for sure. Probably because it's so unusual."

Donnie: "Concerning this last question, I will completely respect and accept your answer, no matter what it may be. Is there anything about your experiences with this creature that you will never share with anyone, including me?"

Linda: "Yes."

Donnie: "Feel free to make any final statement about anything we haven't covered concerning this creature or UFOs in the Point Pleasant area that you feel people will find interesting or useful."

Linda: "The whole situation in Point Pleasant was centered around the Mothman, but that wasn't the center of the problems here. The Mothman was simply a diversion. It was used as a way to draw peoples' attention away from what was really going on. It served its purpose, then after a while it wasn't seen anymore. It was mainly for taking our attention away from what the MIB were doing. It was mainly sighted for about a year. The sightings slowed after the Silver Bridge fell.

"The MIB wore black suits, black hats, and sunglasses. They drove black cars; I think they were Cadillacs I think. I'm not sure about the make and models of the cars. One of the cars would follow us around. There were three men in the car. The police were all involved with the Mothman. Their attention wasn't on the MIB. At least, it didn't seem to be. I don't know if anyone even mentioned the MIB to the police. Everyone was so afraid of them. Mr. Keel seemed to think that the Mothman was here to distract us from these men. I don't know if they came from outer space or not. They may have come from another country; we were never sure. We talked about that a lot. One of the Journalists that accompanied Mr. Keel seemed to think so, too. They looked like a human being, but their skin was somewhat transparent. You could see the veins in their hands very clearly. Their fingers were longer than a normal person's fingers, as well. Daddy shook hands with them, and he said they were awkward in shaking hands. They seemed to not know what to do, or how to shake hands. Our next door neighbor shook hands with them, and he said the same thing.

"We had to keep a crucifix above Dani's (Linda's oldest daughter) bed. From what I understand, the MIB were here for her until she was six years old. Me and four other girls all got pregnant at the same time. And, before you ask, no, it wasn't aliens or anything that got us pregnant. We've been asked that before. Mr. Keel thought that these MIB were here after the babies because they were especially intelligent. Dani is in fact exceptionally intelligent, and the other babies turned out to be, as well. The MIB could shape the children's minds up until they were six years old. They could make them believe what they wanted them to. After they turned six years old, their minds were already shaped by their parents and their general surroundings.

"For some reason, the MIB were afraid of a crucifix. One of the men came into my bedroom one night. Me, my aunt, and Dani were all sleeping in the same bedroom. My aunt had a dream that was exactly what happened in the room while she was asleep. Dani was in the baby bed, right beside my bed. We had a crucifix at the foot of Dani's baby bed. Mr. Keel said there had to be gold on the crucifix, so that's what we got. At about Midnight that night, a man walked into the room. We had the kitchen light on because the baby was in the room, so we could easily get to her quickly if we needed to. The kitchen was right off the bedroom, so the light flooded into the bedroom a little. The man had coal-black hair, and wore a black and white checkered shirt and black pants. He had a crew cut haircut that was about an inch long, sticking straight up. He had dark eyes. He didn't look like the men in the suits. His skin wasn't as transparent as theirs was. The light was dim coming from the kitchen, but I could see him well enough. He just stood there and stared at me, never blinking his eyes once. After a few minutes, he took a cigarette out of his shirt pocket and lit it. When he did that, the gold crucifix reflected the light and caught his eye. He turned to look at it, as I did. When I turned back, he was gone. No sounds at all. I walked into the kitchen and sat down for a little while. When my aunt woke up, she came into the kitchen and said she just had a wild dream. She described exactly what happened in the room a few minutes before. It was very scary. I think they were there to take Dani that night. And, that if it wasn't for that crucifix shining when he lit his cigarette, they may have gotten her."

Donnie: "How old was Dani at the time?"

Linda: "About five months old. I could tell by the look in his eyes he was there for a purpose. I couldn't move a muscle. I was numb."

Donnie: "He didn't speak at all?"

Linda: "He never said a word. He just stood there, staring at me."

Donnie: "Did he look at Dani in the baby bed?"

[John Keel talks about the children being of interest to the MIB in the interview I conducted with him later in the extended section of this book, as well]

Linda: "No. He looked at me, then the crucifix, then was gone. All of us girls kept crucifixes about the babies' beds, or close to them. The MIB tried to kidnap one of the other girls' babies in New Haven, WV. She saw the Mothman at the Mason golf course. She saw it in daylight. It followed her car down the road. That was around 3PM in the afternoon. She was driving about sixty MPH. She said it stayed right beside the car for a while then disappeared. She said it looked like it wasn't even trying to keep up with her, like it was easy for it to be going that fast. She believed the MIB was trying to take her little boy. She won't talk about it much. She a relative of one of the people originally involved with the sighting reports.

"Mary Hyre was one of the people who knew the most about everything that was going on at the time. Mr. Keel said she knew too much. It just completely took over her life."

Donnie: "Mary Hyre worked for the Athens Messenger?"

Linda: "Yes. She worked down on Sixth Street in Point Pleasant. She would report her news to the Athens Messenger. She passed away at a young age. There was talk that the MIB had something to do with her death. Mr. Keel said that she had either received or made a phone call just before she died, I can't remember which. He said that it may have been involved with her death. She had either made a call to report something she knew, or had received a threatening call for her to stop reporting about the MIB. It was a tense time for a lot of people around here."

Donnie: "What about your father? What was his take on all this?"

Linda: "My dad didn't believe in anything like this. He didn't believe in superstitions, and didn't believe in things like the Mothman. He said that if

he hadn't seen the look on our faces when after we first sighted the Mothman, he wouldn't have believed us. He said the fact that we gave up our home to move in with him for safety also made him believe us. We were renting a home near Village Pizza in Point Pleasant at the time.

"The day before we saw the Mothman, it was at our home, but I didn't know what it was. My husband was at work. It was about 11PM at night. This awful noise above our home started and it scared me. It sounded like the flapping of wings all around the home. I was petrified. I was scared to death. It circled the home and kept hitting the roof for about fifteen to twenty minutes. I didn't know what was going on, or what was hitting the roof. I never did go outside. It stopped a few minutes before husband got home. But, I still wouldn't go outside. He came home and didn't see or hear anything. The next night, while we were at TNT, we found out what it was.

"We used to go to TNT all the time and drag race. People would meet us up there from Pomeroy, Ohio and Parkersburg, West Virginia, among other places. There were a lot of cars up there at any given time. People brought their kids and everything. It was really fun. It was the thing to do at the time. That's how we had fun back then. A lot of couples used to meet up there and camp out. We all had hot rod cars. That was our meeting place back then. That was the place to hang out. After the Mothman was sighted, no one wanted to go back out there, especially after dark. But, really, we shouldn't have felt that way, because we saw it in town, and other places too. But, we were afraid to go up there after dark after that."

Donnie: "Did anyone from the government ever contact you?"

Linda: "No. They contacted Mr. Keel. They told Mr. Keel that there wasn't enough evidence to investigate it. I think they investigated it, but kept it quiet. They just wanted people to keep believing that everyone was making the whole thing up. But, there were a little too many people seeing that stuff to be making it up, and everyone knew it, including the government. They didn't want to add fuel to the fire. They wanted everything to quiet down, and all the attention to be taken away from the TNT area for some reason.

"The UFOs were everywhere up there and in the general Point Pleasant area. We could go out on our back porch and use daddy's binoculars to see them a little clearer. They looked like brightly-colored flowers. Again, the

colors were more vivid than any I've ever seen in my life, including after that day.

"One of the MIB walked through my neighbor's garage and scared him very badly. My neighbor asked the man three or four times what he wanted, but the man didn't answer him. The way he described the man, he looked exactly like the man that was in my bedroom. He had on the same type shirt, pants, and had the same hair. I don't know if it was the same man or not, but it could have been.

"The Mothman was smart and knew how close to get to people, as to not get hurt. A lot of people I know wanted to kill it. They just wanted it out of their lives. They didn't want anything to do with it, at all. They wanted it to go away, and tried to make it go away, permanently.

"Somehow it knew I didn't want to hurt it, and that I felt sorry for it. I wanted to talk to it and find out if I could help it, and it seemed to know that. It kept showing up to me. I kept wondering, 'Why me? Why is it just coming around me?' When I would see it, I would tell someone in my family about it and they'd say, 'You didn't see anything. Just stop talking about it.' After a while of hearing that, I started ignoring it and it went away. I felt bad about that. I was always curious about it because it never once tried to hurt me, and it could have several times. It had every opportunity to hurt or even kill me if it would have wanted to. But, I'll be honest with you, I was still afraid of it. There was too much that I didn't know about it to feel completely comfortable around it.

"The MIB went so far as to follow us through the drive-through of a restaurant. We were afraid to turn around, and just looked in the mirror at them. There were three of them. Mary Hyre told me that the MIB that were at her office would pick up common objects, like a pencil, or a stapler, and study it, as if they didn't know what it was. Mr. Keel said that was a strong indication that the MIB weren't from our government. He said it was likely that they were not from this planet.

"Mr. Keel told us that people had been telling him they talked to him and it wasn't him. It was someone who looked like him. He said it was probably the MIB. He told us there would probably be someone coming around to talk to us, claiming to be him. He told us to ask him a question that only Mr. Keel would know. He told us not to be taken advantage of by this man. He

told us to reference Mr. Drasin, and that they knew nothing about what Mr. Drasin, Mr. Keel, and myself had talked about confidentially. If he did come around, we never saw him. We knew Mr. Keel very well. He was a very nice man. My ex-husband and I were staying at my daddy's house at the time. We stayed in the basement and Mr. Keel stayed upstairs for a good while during his stay in the area. Mr. Drasin stayed with us, too. Mr. Keel originally stayed at the Blue Fountain Motel in Gallipolis, Ohio, right across the Ohio River from Point Pleasant. We told him that he was more than welcome to stay with us, and he accepted.”

Donnie: “Again, thank you Linda for offering to do this interview and for sharing the facts with millions of curious people. My best to you and yours.”

Linda: "Thank you."

Original Press Clippings These are scans of authentic newspaper clippings obtained directly from Linda Scarberry. She had saved these over the years to chronicle the events of the Mothman phenomena and the happenings around Point Pleasant, West Virginia and surrounding areas. These clippings are offered together as a digital collection for the first time to give you the facts that were in print throughout the time of the sightings and thereafter. All clippings and scans are copyrighted and may not be reproduced nor used digitally, nor in hard copy format without the expressed written consent of The Sergeant Company and their respective copyright holders.

If you are reading this on an eReader, as opposed to a computer, you will need to use your eReader software's "Zoom" function to properly read some of the articles, as you would with all other images of this size, as the print can become rather small. On the popular Kindle PaperWhite, simply double-tap a clipping to take it to pinch/zoom mode. I had considered

removing some of the clippings that fit this profile, but chose to include the entire collection for those of you who wanted to have access to them with various means to view the book. As a tip, move your device or software to “Landscape” mode for easier reading during the Articles section and for various photos. I provided a black background for images with uneven edges and holes or tears in the document. This should make for easier distinction between the document, background and text.

If you are viewing on a computer, simply view the pages at full-screen width.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1966 Price 5c

[illegible][illegible]

Professor L. Smith, associate director of wildlife management at West Virginia University, has given "bird stories" the business in his weekly column for the Morgantown Dominion-Post.

A copy of his column was offered to The Register by R. Ivan Pinnell, police reporter for the Morgantown Post who said the article appeared in our paper as a result of the sighting of a bird similar to that seen in Mason County."

Pinnell said "The Monongahela County bird had one difference—it had large green eyes."

Smith said "I have seen Sheriff Charles J. Whiston tell me the bird there is 'a hoax.' He said it was only seen once, about two days 'after you r bird was sighted.'"

Professor Smith, who previously informed the Mason County Sheriff's Office that the "bird" here probably was a sandhill crane, wrote as follows:

"This week I had planned to write about Ilion, more specifically on the care and happiness of the deer carcass. But instead I am going to write about the sandhill crane, simply to set the record straight about the "monster" bird that made the headline in Mason County. Much of the information has been misrepresented, added to, subtracted and changed in the telling. The released were beautiful examples of how a story can change with each retelling.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the "strange monster" or "large terrifying bird" or what have you was a sandhill crane. The identification was rather easy from the descriptions of the bird in the news releases.

"The sandhill crane is a large bird, standing four to 4½ feet tall. Its stance is rather erect, and it walks with a strong deliberate stride that seen in the dark might vaguely suggest a human. The bird is blue-gray in color except for the bare red skin on its legs, feet and crown. Under the glare of headlights the reflection of the eyes and the roundish red patches on the head would leave the impression of two large red eyes. Startled, the bird might have extended its wings which with its upright posture could account for the description of "wings like an angels'."

"The bird has a wingspread of about 6½ to 7½ feet, and its size at weight, only about eight pounds. Most highly exaggerated was its speed of flight, supposedly around 100 miles an hour. With a real strong tail wind, the bird might do 50; the actual flight speed is probably much closer to 30.

"The only time the sandhill crane occurred as a breeding bird or migrant from California was in 1934. It was seen in the San Joaquin Valley. It was not seen in California since."

SEE STORY NO. 1 PAGE

Bright UFO Resembles Stove Pipe

POINT PLEASANT — UFO sightings were reported in several areas again last night with one of the brightest lights ever witnessed.

There were two in most areas where it was reported to be. One was very bright and very large. Some reported that it looked as if it had an object resembling a stove pipe at the top. The other UFO was bright orange encircled in black.

Both traveled northwest and was seen between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m.

Monster Returns To Mason

By MARY HYRE

Point Pleasant Correspondent

POINT PLEASANT — Six — or maybe seven — more people became believers in the Mason County Monster Wednesday night.

What is it they saw? They don't know, but they have managed to convince a raft of people they saw something.

The latest observers of the red-eyed, wing-backed six-foot thing are Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Wamsley; Ricky, Connie and Vickie Thomas and Marcella Bennett.

They spotted the monster around 9 p. m. Wednesday outside the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Thomas, in the TNT area, where the thing was sighted Tuesday night.

Observer number seven is reported to be a Cheshire area youth who allegedly was chased by a thing matching the description of the Mason County Monster. The chase took place on Route 7 in Ohio.

Wednesday night's sighting took place as the Wamsley's and the Thomas children were leaving the Thomas home. They said the red-eyed creature was lying on the road behind a car.

UFO Seen Here Late Wednesday

An unidentified flying object passed over downtown Point Pleasant late Wednesday evening, witnesses reported, and tied up traffic in the Sixth Street area as motorists stopped their cars to watch.

The UFO was sighted by a number of persons including around 30 people leaving the Church of Christ in Christian Union following a service.

One witness said the object glowed brightly and appeared to be circular in shape. It was last seen heading past Central School.

Mason County's 'Bird' Known 'Far And Wide'

Mason County's "Bird" story has made its way into newspapers all across the land and just last week turned up in the Army's official publication of the Stars and Stripes.

In the November 19 Pacific edition a two-column headline "Red-Eyed Creature Reported in W. Va." drew the attention of many servicemen in Viet Nam.

Among those was a regular army man from Point Pleasant, Sgt 1st cl-E 7 Morton A. Jackson. He mailed the front page of the paper to his mother, Mrs. Roy Jackson and sister, Mrs. Millard Halstead, both of

Point Pleasant.

The Sergeant, who is a brother-in-law to Deputy Sheriff Millard Halstead, had not received any information concerning this when he spotted the release in the Army's paper.

However Mrs. Jackson of 2319 Jefferson Ave. said they since had mailed clippings of circumstances surrounding it to her son.

Sgt. Jackson mailed his letter home from Viet Nam on November 21 and it was received here Friday morning.

The serviceman's address is Sgt. 1st cl-E 7 Morton A. Jackson, RA 35653076, U. S. A. ST-

RAT CON Fac. Phu Lan, San Francisco, Calif. 96243.

At the same time, Lt. Col. William L. Latta Jr. in Viet Nam sent two articles from Stars and Stripes about "the bird", with the note: "Even Point Pleasant gets in the news in the Pacific."

The clippings were received here by Colonel Latta's wife, Pauline Stephenson Latta of Columbus, O., and were forwarded to The Register.

The Register has received requests for newspapers containing "bird" articles from various places, including Arkansas.

Three Youths Describe Big Mystery Bird

POINT PLEASANT — It may not have been the monster that has been seen by several in Mason County in recent weeks, but it was a mighty big bird according to three Point Pleasant High School students who reported that they saw this "thing" Monday night as they were driving on Staffhouse Road near Route 62 at 9:15 p.m.

The boys, Steve Clark, Brerry Casto and Bill Flowers, said it flew along with their car and they saw its wings which had a five-foot span.

They said that it looked brown with white spots under its wings. They didn't see a head or feet, but estimated that it might have been nearly four or four and one-half feet tall.

The boys said it did not look like a man, but more like a bird, although like nothing they had seen before. It came at them suddenly, and went out of sight quickly, too. They went back to look for it, but did not see it again.

The first sighting of the creature was by Mr. and Mrs. Roger Scarberry and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Mallette in almost the same area around midnight Nov. 15. It was reportedly much larger than the bird seen Monday and also a different color.

It was later seen by Connie Carpenter, New Haven, and Tom Ury, Clarksburg, both of whom described it as a large creature with red eyes and a large wing span. It chased their cars at a high rate of speed, they said.

Sighting 1-9-67

Giant Owl Killed On Area Farm

Bird
Killed
12-22-66

A bird although a dead one, is in the news again and the big question is — Is it or isn't it one that may have been spotted here on several occasions?

Apparently from the description it is not the one that was seen by two young couples last month, but may be one that has kept cropping into headlines since that time.

A large owl uncommon to this area, was killed Tuesday night by Ace Henry on his farm at Gallipolis Ferry.

The bird, which has a wing spread of nearly five feet, has several areas of white and is speckled with black. On the under side of the wings the plumage is snowy white, and white fur-like feathers encircle the large eyes and cover the claws.

Henry said he shot it with a 20-gauge shotgun Tuesday night after it was spotted sitting on top of his barn. He said at first he thought it was a hawk but after killing it he was perplexed to know its true identity.

The Register Editorial staff, in an attempt to identify the bird, has concluded that it is a snowy owl.

The snowy owl is an inhabitant of northern regions, where his coloring blends with the snowy surroundings. In the winter it travels south through the states and sometimes as far as Texas. On the wing it is so swift that it will overtake a grouse in flight.

PACIFIC STRANGE STORIES
20 NOV. 66

4 More Say They Saw Red-Eyed 'Whatever'

POINT PLEASANT, W. Va. (UPI) — The mystery of the flying "whatever it was" continued here Thursday.

Four more persons reported seeing a huge, bird-like creature with red eyes, and in Doddridge County, more than 100 miles to the north, a farmer feels his german shepherd was "dognaped" by the thing.

Mason County Sheriff George Johnson said he does not discount the stories of Steve Mallette and Roger Scarberry and their wives. All four swear they saw the creature three times late Tuesday and early Wednesday, near an abandoned power plant five miles north of here.

Raymond Wamsley and his wife, and Marcelle Bennett and Ricky Thomas told Johnson they saw it, too, in the same general area.

Johnson said he feels whatever everyone saw was nothing more than a "freak whitepuck," a large bird of the heron family. The whitepuck, or shag as it is sometimes known, is the smallest heron in the western hemisphere.

No one, however, could explain how a shag or similar large bird could fly 160 mph, as Scarberry and Mallette said the thing they saw did. All four said they would take lie detector tests.

At a farm in Doddridge County near the Harrison County community of Salem, contractor Newell Partridge said he saw something with eyes like "red reflectors" in a meadow near his home. He sighted this "thing" about 10 minutes before the Point Pleasant incident.

Partridge said his television set began acting up, "sounding like a generator," and his \$310 german shepherd, Bandit, started "carrying on something terrible."

After the dog had howled for some time, Partridge said, he opened the door and shone a flashlight into the field where the "reflectors" were seen.

The dog's hair stood straight up, Partridge said, and the animal then went after the "thing." The dog never returned, and it was found.

Partridge's wife, Jo, said the dog had never stayed away from home for more than 15 minutes in the last three years.

FIVE UFO'S SEEN IN MASON

POINT PLEASANT — A cluster of five disc-shaped, aluminum-colored objects were sighted in the TNT area of Mason County late Thursday afternoon.

Reporting this latest in a long series of UFO sightings in Mason and Meigs counties were Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Plantz, 35 Burdette Addition. Three other persons also saw the objects.

The objects were seen near the old powerhouse in the area where the so-called "Mason County Monster" was first spotted by four Point Pleasant youth last November. That monster, most often described as a huge bird with a tremendous wingspan and fiery eyes, apparently has left the area after being repeatedly seen for a number of weeks.

In the latest UFO sighting, the Plantzs reported that the five objects, in a cluster formation, circled about 400 feet in the air.

They came out of the cluster formation and formed a straight line, heading northward about one mile apart, then circled and went across the Ohio River and out of sight. The objects were in sight for approximately 15 minutes.

Witnesses said there were two red lights, one a bright red circular type and the other stationary. They said the objects sometimes were so near the ground that trees obscured the view. There was no detectable sound. All the witnesses agreed that the objects, whatever they might have been, definitely were not airplanes.

Meanwhile, three Mason County Civil Defense workers assert they have "solved" some of the recent sightings in the Point Pleasant area. After taking a flight over the area Thursday night, the men concluded that the sightings resulted from lights on the front, wings and rear of a commercial airliner.

Richard Newell, Carl Sibley and Lou Nueller said an Allegheny Airlines plane goes over the area between 8:10 and 8:50 p.m. nightly.

However, their conclusions immediately were challenged by persons who have reported seeing UFOs. These believers said that they were aware of commercial flights in the area, but that the UFOs were soundless and occurred at different times. UFOs also are disc-shaped instead of having the configurations of airplanes.

So the mystery, now six months old, continues without a plausible explanation.

Refuted
No. 21

'Bird' Echoes Still

Calls, letters and rumors continue to plague the Mason County Sheriff's office from persons offering information on the so-called "bird" that was spotted in Mason County last Tuesday night.

However, the original four persons who reported their experience to Deputy Sheriff Millard Halstead, are not convinced that the creature is a bird.

Dr. Robert Smith of the West Virginia University biology department said the description fits that of a Sandhill Crane, but Mr. and Mrs. Steve Mallette and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Scarberry contend that the creature they saw around midnight Tuesday, had the shape more like that of a man, but had a wide wing spread and red eyes.

Meanwhile, Sheriff Halstead said four other persons said they saw the creature Saturday night on the Camp Conley Road about one mile back from the main highway or State Route 62.

Four youths, Billy Burdett, 16; Darrell Love, 18; Johnny Love, 14, and John Morrow, 14, all of Point Pleasant Route 2 described it as having red eyes and said when they got close to it, it flew off.

Hundreds of sightseers have flocked the TNT area since the report by local news media on Wednesday, but during the weekend traffic tapered off some after some authorities labeled it as a Sandhill Crane.

Sheriff Halstead said today, he had received two letters from persons across the country who were offering information in an attempt to identify it.

A Silver Springs, Md., resident Henry J. Frey said he had read the account in the Washington Daily News. Frey said he is "an authority on many subjects" and has concluded from the description that it is a Great Blue Heron. He said these birds belong to a family of wandering birds.

Halstead received another letter from Donald Birchfield, who lives in Altoona, Pa., and had picked it up in a local paper. He is of the opinion that it is a Sandhill Crane.

It was also reported the Sandhill Crane has a bigger population than 30 as reported earlier.

Sightings Reported In Point, New Haven

POINT PLEASANT — Four boys camping out Friday night were frightened when they saw an unidentified object which they believe was the "Monster."

The boys were camping out near Lewis Street in Point Pleasant. The object appeared about 3 a.m. Saturday. It looked to be six or seven feet tall and was a gray colored according to the boys.

The boys said after what sounded like some wings flopping three times, it disappeared.

The camping ended right then, as the boys returned to one of their homes and sat up until

daylight, then went to their respective homes.

A New Haven woman who went outside to check on her dogs about 11 p.m. Thursday night along with a neighbor saw a bright object in the sky. A short distance from it was another unidentified object in colors of blue and white. The objects suddenly disappeared.

No Opposition

HENDERSON — There will be no opposition in the city election here Tuesday unless there are write-in votes, as only one party has filed. Candidates for the Peoples Party are:

Frank Morrison, mayor; Dreama Aiker, recorder; and Carl Neal, Effie Roach, Robert Mayes, Alice Noe, and Fulton Spears, city council. The polls will open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. The election will be held at City Hall.

Pool To Open

POINT PLEASANT — Shawnee Swimming Pool will open Tuesday for the season sponsored by the Point Pleasant Kiwanis Club.

The pool has been re-decorated in bright colors by the Kette and Key Club members.

AFB Claims 'UFO' Really Flying Boxcar

The unidentified flying object" sighted Monday by a large number of Mason Countians has apparently been identified, although some are still not convinced.

According to the Gallipolis Daily Tribune, a spokesman for Lockbourne Air Force Base, near Columbus, said what area residents saw was a C-119 Flying Box Car on a training flight. The planes fly nightly over southeastern Ohio using what the spokesman described as "illuminator lights." The light is called the "Light of Freedom" and its use in Vietnam has been invaluable in revealing enemy position to American forces.

Repudiating this, two Point Pleasant youths said they "chased" the object seen Monday on motorcycles after noticing it hovering above the caretaker's building at Suncrest Cemetery and followed it out Sand Hill Road where they had it in sight about 20 minutes. They said because of the way it maneuvered they did not believe it to be a plane. Also, in some reports the object viewed was described as being round and not having any wings.

Lights, Circular Objects

* Directly across Ohio River from TNT Area where
Creature Was first sighted.

Cheshire, Ohio

Cheshire People Tell Of Strange Sightings

By MARY HYRE

Point Pleasant Correspondent.

CHESHIRE — Strange objects have been seen in the Cheshire area during the past several weeks, but witnesses have been reluctant to talk about the sightings. Sunday night, however, several revealed their stories.

Mrs. Roy Grose, Cheshire, said that she was awakened by the barking of her dog at 4:45 a.m., Nov. 17. She got up to see what was wrong.

The moon was shining very brightly that night, she said, and when she looked out the kitchen window, she saw a bright-colored circular object on the other side of Route 7.

The saucer-shaped object, Mrs. Grose went on, was the size of a small house with what looked like sections or compartments of blue and red windows.

The object was over an open field at about housetop level, she said, and its brilliant lights were visible for about 30 or 40 seconds before it zigzagged and

suddenly disappeared.

As she was watching the object, Mrs. Grose said that she was afraid to call the rest of the family because it might have left by the time they got back to the window. In describing her feelings of that morning, the housewife and piano teacher said only, "I was stunned."

On the other side of town, Charles Hern, an employe at the Kyger Creek Power Plant, took his dog out for a walk along the Ohio River at about 6:30 a.m. last Thursday morning.

He noticed a red light across the river. At first he thought it was only a trapper in a boat checking his muskrat traps, but as he looked he realized that it was something he had never seen before, he said.

He called his wife, and together they saw that the light was on the shore. It appeared, they said, that little people were going to and from the object.

Mrs. Hern said that they were

so stunned and dazzled that they decided to call their neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Taylor.

Mrs. Taylor, a school teacher, was the first to come outside, and she, too, saw the red and orange lights shining from the object by the river. She said that one of the lights was directed toward the water part of the time. Taylor, who arrived at the scene soon after his wife, collaborated with the other witnesses.

Although the others went back inside, Mrs. Hern remained outside for awhile. The lights went out she said, and then lights of another color appeared. Then, she said, the object went straight up and vanished.

Hern said, "I've lived on this river bank since I was 12 years old and I know every boat light, but this definitely was something I've never seen before."

A high school student reportedly saw an object of a similar description south of there at

about 5 a.m. that same morning.

A George Creek woman reported that she was traveling along George Creek Road at about 7 p.m. Friday evening with her four children when they saw a redish orange metallic object just above a utility pole. It was the size of a helicopter, she said, adding that it definitely was not one.

She said that it moved along the highway in front of the car for about a mile, disappearing as it approached the brighter lights of the power transformers.

The sightings were near the area where a large bird-like creature has been reported in recent weeks.

John A. Keel, a magazine writer from New York City, has been in the area since Wednesday collecting material on both the UFO and creature sightings. He said that the sightings are similar to others throughout the United States.

UFO Watching Picks Up; Object Outruns Pilot

By CELIA AEIKER
Register Staff Writer

Apparently the newest fad in the Point Pleasant area is UFO watching, unidentified flying objects have been visiting the night skies for well over three weeks now and scores of persons have been reporting sightings.

Tuesday night a Gallipolis-based airplane whose pilot prefers to remain anonymous reportedly pursued a light-bearing object over the area at 2,400 feet. The object was rapidly moving in a northerly direction when spotted.

The pilot said he flashed the landing lights on his own air-

craft as he closed in but the object disappeared before he and a companion could determine its shape and size.

Observers on the ground said the UFO, which bore red and white lights, passed overhead at around 8:05 p.m.

A similar object has been observed along Route 62, in the area of the Pleasant Point Resort, almost nightly, usually between 7 and 9 p.m. In the past few days the area has been filled with cars and spectators hoping for a glimpse of the mysterious object.

A number of persons in the TNT area Monday night, including Bill Roush and several others, reported that UFO came within 150 feet of them. Mr. Roush said the "strange light" was about 100 feet above the group.

Mr. and Mrs. James Lilly of Camp Conley, the scene of many sightings, reported that eight UFOs were spotted in that area the same night.

Still another man and his sister said they watched a UFO traveling in a northwesterly direction between Point Pleasant and Henderson. The sighting took place around 9:30 p.m. Monday.

A Huntington newspaper

Tuesday published a time exposure photograph taken of an object which was sighted in the Camp Conley area Sunday night. The article stated that while the objects could be an elaborate hoax of some sort competent observers say the thing is not a satellite or airplane.

Residents from New Haven and other parts of the county also have reported sighting objects with lights of varying degrees of brilliancy.

Monday night the Meigs County Sheriff's Department received telephone calls from where residents reported seeing an unidentified flying object. Observers said the object resembled a silver disc, was lighted by revolving lights and was flying low and at tremendous speed.

The TNT area was again filled with cars and people Wednesday night on the alert for UFOs. Deputy Millard Halstead and others sighted an object with red and white lights near the Hidden Valley Country Club around 8:30 last night. The object passed slowly overhead, appearing to glide, Halstead said.

Civil Defense Director Andy Wilson and other Civil Defense personnel have also reported seeing the objects and could offer no explanation for them.

Whatever the objects are, they are the talk of the town. Many people have taken to holding watch parties and all-night vigils in hopes of getting a look at the aerial phenomena which, it would appear, has made its home in Point Pleasant for the time being.

UFO Makes Return Visits Over Mason; Probe Asked

POINT PLEASANT — What unidentified object is flying over Mason County at night?

That is the question today and some people believe there should be an investigation.

Monday night the sheriff's office received calls describing a low-flying "crippled plane."

Three teen-age boys saw an object in the TNT area and said that the object's white light focused on them was so bright they could not look at it. The "round object" was about 300 feet long.

One time it appeared over the hilltop on Jerico Road. Witnesses reported it had long and short prongs.

In the same area there was an object flying first fast, then slow. It would hover, displaying green, red and white lights.

An estimated 500 persons saw

the object during the night.

Timmie Clendenin and Johnny Love said they saw a bright light at Ordnance School when they went to investigate, it "took off." They chased it to Route 2.

No one who saw the object, detected any wings. Some persons heard a humming sound, similar to that of an airplane or helicopter.

One person said the object stayed above his car while he was traveling home from his job.

A Letart man reported that the object circled the area there for 35 minutes.

People on Thomas Ridge said it stayed for 30 minutes or more in that area and was circling the area using the extremely bright searchlight on the ground.

It was also seen in the Mea-

dowbrook and 30th Street areas.

Many first thought it was a pilot in trouble, trying to find a place to land, but the Mason County airport was lighted. The object went over it several times.

One teen-ager said that he saw a "big thing" recently that he could not identify. He said he was in the TNT area. He turned a curve and on the bank was a creature about 6 feet tall. It was white and had red eyes. He said he stopped his car but the creature ran. Others have reported seeing similar creatures in the area.

It has been about two years since the unidentified objects first appeared in this area. Two Point Pleasant couples saw a creature in the TNT area that chased them by gliding over their car into the city limits of Point Pleasant. Since that time many UFO's have been seen in that area as well as other places in the vicinity.

FIRST SINCE AUG. 14

Local 1699 Ohio U

'Moth-Man' Seen Crane

Point Pleasant Still Has Mystery

POINT PLEASANT (AP) —A big bird with a nasty disposition when aroused. That's the grus Mexicana, or more commonly called, the sandhill crane.

A West Virginia University scientist suggested Friday that the "moth-man" spotted by several people near this Ohio River city was this rare bird.

Robert Smith, associate professor of wildlife biology at WVU, told Mason County Sheriff George Johnson that the descriptions of eye-witnesses fit the huge sandhill crane, second largest of the crane family in America. Only the even rarer whooping crane is larger.

Smith noted that the sandhill crane is about as tall as a man when standing, and in flight its wings spread out to some six-and-a-half feet. It has a large bill, and it will use it to attack small animals or even human beings if molested.

The sandhill crane's breeding ground generally is considered the northern part of the U.S. and southern Canada, but it is seldom seen east of the Missis-

(Please turn to page two)

'MOTH-MAN' SEEN CRANE

(Continued from page one)

sippi river. The bird is migratory and winters in southern California, Mexico or along the Gulf Coast.

Smith said the behavior described by witnesses, following their automobiles, etc., has been observed in the sandhill crane.

Reference books say the large bird has been known to attack hunting dogs and wound or kill them with its long, sharp beak. Attacks on human beings also have been recorded.

Smith was of the opinion there has been no previous sightings of the large bird this far east. He said it may have followed migrating geese or other waterfowl to the McClintic Wildlife Station, a favored stopping place for migratory fowl, near here.

Winged, Red-Eyed 'Thing' Chases Point Couples Across Countryside

By MARY HYRE
Point Pleasant Correspondent

POINT PLEASANT — What stands six feet tall, has wings, two big red eyes six inches apart and glides along behind an auto at 100 miles an hour?

Don't know? Well, neither do four Point Pleasant residents who were chased by a weird "man-like thing" Tuesday night.

Two young Mason County married couples today told of being chased by the "strange creature" around midnight Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Mallette, 3505 Jackson Ave., and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Scarberry, 809½ 30th St., described their hair-raising experiences, which began in the TNT area.

The two couples were riding in a car and as the auto crested a hill, an object loomed in front of them. The object was

in the form of a man, about six feet tall with wings on its back.

Becoming frightened, the couples drove away. As they approached a traffic circle near

Meteor Shower Due In Skies Tonight

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — A meteor shower after midnight tonight may produce one of the most spectacular sky shows in more than a century.

The Leonid meteors may flash through the skies about 2 a.m. (EST), toward the east and a little south. Weather, however, could obscure the show.

FIVE DAY FORECAST
Temperatures Thursday through Monday will average 4-8 degrees above normal. Representative normal highs and lows: Cleveland 47-31, Columbus 49-31, Cincinnati 51-35. Not much temperature change until weekend, when it should turn cooler. Precipitation will total .1 to .3 inch as rain or showers about end of week.

Route 62, they said the thing loomed in front of the car again.

Mallette, 20, said they drove toward Point Pleasant on Route 62 at 100 miles an hour, with the strange creature drifting along behind the car.

The couples said the thing seemed to avoid lights. When they turned into the C. C. Lewis farm, the creature was again in front of the car. What appeared to be a large dead dog was lying on the road.

Later, the couples and police returned to the farm, but the dog had vanished. Deputy Sheriff Millard Halstead searched the TNT area. The deputy said the "thing" was gone, but he found "a strange pile of dust."

Scarberry, 18, said, "Believe me if you ever saw it, you'd be a believer." The men said they might go looking for the thing tonight, but indicated they were afraid they might find it.

UFOs Out In Force Across Mason Skies

POINT PLEASANT — Unidentified flying objects were out in force Monday night, residents of Mason County reported.

The TNT area was visited by Bill Roush and several others.

Roush said a UFO came within 150 feet of them. The "strange light" was about 100 feet above the group, he added.

Mr. and Mrs. James Lilly of Camp Conley reported that eight UFOs were spotted in that area. They have seen UFOs nightly for three weeks.

Another man said he and his sister watched a UFO appear between Point Pleasant and Henderson about 9:30 p.m., travel "very low" across the sky in a northwesterly direction. It was visible for 30 minutes.

Several residents of New Haven have seen UFOs, with witnesses describing different colored lights and brilliance.

All report the absence of sound.

A Huntington newspaper today published a time exposure photograph of a sighting in the Camp Conley area Sunday night. The accompanying story notes that, while the objects could be an elaborate hoax of some sort, competent observers say the "thing" is not a satellite nor is it an aircraft.

Still More UFO's Seen In Point Pleasant Sky

POINT PLEASANT — Unidentified flying objects were spotted over Point Pleasant again Thursday night.

At about 7:40 p. m., Mr. and Mrs. Scotty Soladean, Henderson, and others who saw the object Wednesday night reported

seeing a bright light go over Point Pleasant again. It made no sound, they said.

Soladean said that fire appeared to fall from the object just before it disappeared Wednesday night. He said that if it was a strange looking light and that it hung very still in the sky. If it had been an airplane he could have heard it, he said.

J. A. (Andy) Wilson, director of Civil Defense; George Carson, also working with Civil Defense; Robert Spears, Mount Vernon Ave., of the National Guard, and Don Nott said that they saw the UFO from the top of the courthouse at about 10 p. m. They said it had a bright light and that it came from the direction of the Methodist Church.

Charles Fry, also with the National Guard, and numerous others reported seeing the UFO Thursday night.

Denton Dispatch Paper
10-17-73

UFOs Reported In Portsmouth, Flatwoods Area

Associated Press

PORTSMOUTH, Ohio — A Portsmouth radio newsman said he watched what he thought was an unidentified flying object for nearly three minutes last night in the skies over southern Ohio.

Dan Robbins of WPAY said the object appeared to be round and left a light, white trail in the sky as it sped away due east.

Robbins said a listener alerted him to the object at about 9:50 p.m.

Minutes earlier, Cincinnati police reported receiving numerous reports of UFO sightings.

At Ashland, Ky., radio station WCMI reported receiving about 25 calls from residents who claimed they had seen an UFO along Kentucky 207 in the Flatwoods area.

Law enforcement officials in the area said they had received no reports of sightings.

Athens Messenger - Dec. 13-66
(was seen Dec. 11-66)

'Creature' Seen Again Flying Over TNT Area

POINT PLEASANT — Chester Leport, Point Pleasant, and Stevie Pearson Jr., 13, Point Pleasant Route 1, saw a strange object gliding over the TNT area Sunday about 3:30 p.m.

Leport said he and the boy were hunting for a Christmas tree when they saw a "greyish thing" gliding through the air making a strange noise at a very high rate of speed. He said it

wasn't close enough for him to see its features, but it was huge and looked like nothing he had seen before.

Leport said the thing apparently came from the Ohio side of the river and for a while he thought it was going to land.

There have been many reports of a flying creature in the TNT area over the past several weeks. One theory is that it is a sand hill crane.



Beulah Jones

'Around The Bend'

Point Pleasant Loses A Friend

Point Pleasant has lost a friend with the recent passing of Mary Hyre. It was her town and she knew every nook and cranny of it, making a permanent record of its progress and growth from a small, river town to one that made the front pages of the New York Times with the tragedy of the Silver Bridge.

Above all she respected the historical Americana of Point Pleasant and often recounted some of the exciting events in its past in her column "Where the Waters Mingle."

Mary Hyre enjoyed people and the close friendship that results when one lives in a small town where there are no secrets. She was helpful to others and they in turn, helped her in her work of

reporting news.

She followed families and businesses in their joys and also their tragic moments. A fire in Point Pleasant wasn't just another fire, it represented a loss to the community.

She would have liked knowing the many friends who came to pay their respects, the beautiful flowers given in her memory, the final moments surrounded by family, co-workers, and friends. She was not alone.

Mary Hyre gave her best and that is the most one can do. Point Pleasant has a vacant place. But they will remember that she was the champion of the free word, and the right to "tell it like is was."

Area UFO Mystery Solved?

UFO - watching seems to have reached fever pitch in the past week as cars flock by the score to the TNT and Camp Conley area.

Thursday night, dozens of cars — some apparently carrying families on an outing — were parked in the TNT and along Route 62 near the Pleasant Point Resort. Many persons reported sighting an object with flashing lights traveling over the area around 8:30 p.m.

At the same time, three pilots for the Mason County Civil Defense unit followed what they believed to be the object.

Lou Mueller, Carl Sibley and Richard Newell said they followed the "object" to Huntington Tri-State Airport and discovered it was Allegheny Airlines flight 623.

They said the plane makes a daily flight from Washington, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to Huntington and passes over Point Pleasant between 8:10 and 1:50 each evening, when on schedule.

The men said the plane is a twin-engine turbo-prop craft which makes no noticeable sound while in flight.

The plane also has a condenser lighting system on the nose, tail and back sides of both wing tips, which, they say, would explain the white flashing lights and red rotating beacons spotted by thousands in Mason County. The time of the flight was confirmed by Allegheny officials.

Last night, however, the object sighted here was also seen traveling north away from Huntington.

One former disbeliever who does not wish to be identified said a similar object followed her car while she and a friend were traveling along Sand Hill Road Wednesday night at 8:45 p.m. The object seemed to glide along slowly and at times came quite close to the car, she said. She described the object as being round and about seven feet in size. The lights on the object, she noted, were "the most beautiful red and white colors."

After losing sight of the object at Meadowbrook, she said, she drove to her home in Bellemoore where she again sighted the object just over some trees near her house.

Robert Wamsley of 400 First Street reports he has been sighting UFOs since December, usually between 8 and 9 p.m., but was most impressed by a sighting which he and about 12 others made Wednesday night over the river in Henderson.

Wamsley said they watched as three objects came together and hovered for a time. The objects split up when a jet plane flew over the area, he said.

'Flying Saucer' Nearly Has Its 'Wings' Clipped

One of the area's unidentified flying objects has been identified — and its "little green man" almost became a "little red-faced man."

A reliable spokesman said he witnessed the object in the sky, along with several others, this week and was almost convinced he had at last seen a UFO.

"I was sure it was an air-

plane," he said, "but there wasn't any sound."

"It glided over the hilltop (along Route 2 south of Point Pleasant). It had red, white, orange and other colored lights, and had two beams shining down from the bottom of it."

"I watched and it disappeared over the hill, but then I saw it return."

"But this time it got too close to the hilltop and he had to cut his engines on."

It was, in fact, an airplane and probably one UFO which has frightened many women and children in the vicinity of Route 2.

"He must have had every light, even the cabin lights, in the plane on," the spokesman said, "and maybe then some."

A plane gliding along trees also gave the appearance it was disappearing and then reappearing and at times made it look like it was standing still.

The plane and its prankster pilot had been gliding back and forth across the river for several nights.

His noisy flight, however, almost was his last as he almost clipped a few trees with his "saucer."

"He who laughs last...."

Mason Countians See UFO; Light Too Bright To Look At

POINT PLEASANT—Everyone looked skyward Monday night as residents in the Meadowbrook Addition watched an unidentified flying object.

For more than a half hour, the object hovered over the residential section north of midtown, on Sand Hill Rd.

Flashing red lights and a single "very intense" clear light that shone down from the bottom of the low-flying

"craft," and swept across the area.

Some of the witnesses to the night flight said the light was so intense they could not look directly at it.

The object was seen moving in a southerly direction, toward Huntington, about 10:45 p. m.

A year ago, Mason countians in the Camp Conley area, north of Point Pleasant, said they saw a UFO.

UFOs Out In Force Across Mason Skies

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surrounding area to visit the hospital on May 27.

More UFOs Reported

POINT PLEASANT — More UFO sightings were reported Friday in the area of Point Pleasant. A woman said she looked out her window at 4 a.m. and saw a bright orange light hovering over houses on Jackson Avenue near Tiny's Drive-Inn.

Other people reported seeing lights around midnight also in the Point Pleasant area.

Many sightings have been reported by people residing in the Hartford and New Haven area in recent days.

UFO's Sighted Again At Camp Conley, Mason

POINT PLEASANT — The UFO's have been sighted nightly again in many parts of Mason County.

The James Lilly family of Camp Conley have seen as many as six in one night for nearly three weeks.

The Lillys report many people come and watch with them. The objects appear in many different directions, but apparently come from the TNT area. The sightings sometimes are very

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Messages of the 19, 1967

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TNT Area Sightings Continuing

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UFO Seen By Visitor

POINT PLEASANT — A visitor to Mason County Saturday night was startled on route to the home of her mother when she suddenly saw two bright lights that were almost blinding as they neared her as she drove along a country road in the northern part of the county.

The woman watched the unusual lights that looked like they were on the ground and then rushed to the home of relatives to tell them of her experience.

They all returned to the scene and the two lights were still there. They started to investigate when the UFO suddenly soared out of sight.

Where The Waters Mingle

By MARY HYRE



POINT PLEASANT — The high water may have been exciting for many people around Point Pleasant, but for some it was something else — something that you couldn't believe that you were seeing.

I was driving south on Viand

Street at the intersection of Sixth, along with my husband, Scotty and his sister, Mrs. Alice Bradshaw, when I noticed that the boys at the Park Pure Oil Station on the corner were looking upward. As I drove out Sixth Street I told my husband and sister — in a law to look in the sky and see if they could see anything and they saw this strange UFO. I parked in front of the State Theater and along with others watched it travel very slowly southward. There were no sounds.

When we first saw it we could see an outline of a spherical shape with lights on the bottom. It looked very tall with its longest part upward.

Danny Warnsley and Jimmy Mattox, who work at the Park Pure Oil Station, and another young man, Archie White, saw it first.

Danny said when he first saw it he thought "What the heck is that thing?" It was about 300 feet above the New York Central Railroad bridge on Seventh Street. He, along with the other men, described it as being a round and shiny looking thing with lights of several different colors. When they first saw it, the lights were orange, then turned a darker orange and white. They watched it travel very slowly southward and said it looked like it separated.

Mrs. Dolly Grady of 30th Street, said she had watched a similar UFO on Tuesday night for nearly an hour and said it had different colored lights.

We watched it for about 10 minutes.

ESSENGER, Athens, Ohio — Sunday, June 4, 1947

TNT Area Sightings Continuing

POINT PLEASANT — Mason County Civil Defense officials have joined the "hunt" as UFO sightings continue in the area. The officials are hoping to find out just what is being seen.

Last night in the TNT area, it was reported that one of the objects came close to parked cars. Reports indicated that as many as six sightings were made between 7 and 9 p.m. One policeman said that Monday night, an object came right over Point Pleasant. He said it had no sound, and was not a plane.

Monday night in the New Haven and Hartford area, it was reported that two disc-shaped objects were traveling close together.

Another person reported that on the highway Monday night, a big light came at their car. They followed the object, and reported that if they traveled fast, the light would also travel fast, but when they stopped, it would stop and then start up and disappear.

It was also reported that one person said they could see the form of a UFO, and added that it was round and had windows in it.

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Unidentified flying objects continue to be spotted in the skies above Mason County.

Thursday night two carloads of teen-agers reported being startled by a bright light on Route 62 just north of the city limits. The light disappeared, but returned when one group returned to the scene. They notified me about 11 p.m. and I also saw the light. It was small and bright at first, but then seemed to open up.

A plane appeared in the east and the UFO vanished. Several planes were in the area, none of them being scheduled flights.

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Another mystery previously unreported is the finding of silvery-like substances in very small strips in various remote areas of the county.

One family living near the

Putnam County line said they were sitting in their yard with a neighbor and two small children when a ball of the strange substance fell between them.

It was about the size of a baseball, wrapped in brown paper. When it hit the ground it burst and spread over a large area. The witnesses said the object made a loud noise when it hit.

The State Police laboratory in Charleston said tests showed the material consisted of magnesium and aluminum. The Pentagon said the material is used in Air Force training flights.

I received a copy of a news story this week from a radio station manager at Pine Bluff, Ark., reporting the sighting of a UFO. Ken Kesterson, co-owner and manager of the station, said a group saw blue lights, which appeared to come from numerous windows in what looked to be the bottom of the object. When he phoned the radio station and had the object reported, it vanished.

I had a letter this week from a friend of mine in London, England. She reports numerous UFO sightings in that country.

NIGHT RIDER IN SKY AFRAID OF LIGHTS

People in Mason County are talking about a flying man who is afraid of lights.

He is a 6-foot creature with a wingspan of 10 feet and can scoot along at 100 miles an hour.

Wednesday about midnight the gray and white replacement to mundane flying saucers startled two young couples driving north of Point Pleasant on W. Va. 62, they said.

Once they spotted it, they headed for town at 100 miles an hour and along came their weird airborne friend, breezing about 50 feet above them with the greatest of ease, they told police.

But once they neared the lighted confines of the town, the high horsepowerd night rider in the sky veered around and took off toward the dark and less populous countryside—the two couples told police.

Four More Claim Seeing Big Red-Eyed Bird

POINT PLEASANT, W. Va. — (AP) — The mystery of the flying "whatever it was" continued here today.

Four more people reported seeing a huge, bird-like creature with red eyes. A farmer also said his German Shepherd chased something "with red reflectors" and then vanished.

Haunting Creature Seen Twice

POINT PLEASANT — Mason County may be losing one of its recent tourist attractions.

Two Sunday sightings indicate the strange flying creature which has been spotted several times at the old TNT plant, near Point Pleasant, may be leaving his happy haunting grounds.

Miss Connie Jo Carpenter, 18, New Haven, saw the "awful looking creature" flying toward her car on Route 33, near New Haven, about 10:30 a.m. She said the thing was "man-like, with a big wing span."

She said she tromped on the gas and didn't look back to see if the thing followed.

Later Sunday night, two young girls reported seeing a similar man-like creature on Route 60, near St. Albans. The two young girls, walking home from a store, ran to a neighbor's home. The neighbor confirmed the sighting.

The girls said the flying creature had "big red pop-eyes and didn't have a beak." St. Albans is about 40 miles south of Point Pleasant.

Winged, Red-Eyed 'Thing' Chases Point Couples Across Countryside

By MARY HYRE
Point Pleasant Correspondent

POINT PLEASANT — What stands six feet tall, has wings, two big red eyes six inches apart and glides along behind an auto at 100 miles an hour?

Don't know? Well, neither do four Point Pleasant residents who were chased by a weird "man-like thing" Tuesday night.

Two young Mason County married couples today told of being chased by the "strange creature" around midnight Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Mallette, 3505 Jackson Ave., and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Scarberry, 809 1/2 30th St., described their hair-raising experiences, which began in the TNT area.

The two couples were riding in a car and as the auto crested a hill, an object loomed in front of them. The object was

in the form of a man, about six feet tall with wings on its back.

Becoming frightened, the couples drove away. As they approached a traffic circle near

Meteor Shower Due In Skies Tonight

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — A meteor shower after midnight tonight may produce one of the most spectacular sky shows in more than a century.

The Leonid meteors may flash through the skies about 2 a.m. (EST), toward the east and a little south. Weather, however, could obscure the show.

FIVE DAY FORECAST
Temperatures Thursday through Monday will average 4-8 degrees above normal. Representative normal highs and lows: Cleveland 47-51; Columbus 49-51; Cincinnati 51-55. Not much temperature change until weekend, when it should turn cooler. Precipitation will total .1 to .3 inch as rain or showers about end of week.

Route 62, they said the thing loomed in front of the car again.

Mallette, 20, said they drove toward Point Pleasant on Route 62 at 100 miles an hour, with the strange creature drifting along behind the car.

The couples said the thing seemed to avoid lights. When they turned into the C. C. Lewis farm, the creature was again in front of the car. What appeared to be a large dead dog was lying on the road.

Later, the couples and police returned to the farm, but the dog had vanished. Deputy Sheriff Millard Halstead searched the TNT area. The deputy said the "thing" was gone, but he found "a strange pile of dust."

Scarberry, 18, said, "Believe me if you ever saw it, you'd be a believer." The men said they might go looking for the thing tonight, but indicated they were afraid they might find it.

Housewife Spots UFO Over Home

POINT PLEASANT — Mrs. Johnny Clendenin, Madison Avenue, reported seeing a UFO above her home at about 8 p.m. Monday. The object was visible for about two minutes and was approximately 50 feet above her house.

Mrs. Clendenin said it had red and white lights which went on and off alternately. At times it would go in a circle and then it looked as if there was another red light on it stop, she said. There was no sound.

She said that she has seen similar objects in recent evenings, but never for as long a period. Another woman in the same area reported a few nights ago that she saw a UFO fly so low she thought it was landing on a housetop.

Several sights, including one by Margaret Love, Point Pleasant Route 2, were reported Sunday night.

Messen

UFO's Sighted Again At Camp Conley, Mason

POINT PLEASANT — The UFO's have been sighted nightly again in many parts of Mason County.

The James Lilly family at Camp Conley have seen as many as six in one night for nearly three weeks.

The Lillys report many people come and watch with them. The objects appear in many different directions, but apparently come from the TNT area. The sightings sometimes are very

close. Objects are red and white and sometimes travel very fast while other times go very slow, without sound. Witnesses agree the objects aren't airplanes.

One UFO came very close to the Lilly home, illuminating the house. Their television went on the blink for a short time.

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The Lillys say that they do not know what it is, but there sure is something.

It was also reported that in the Mason area two bright red lights hovered over that area Tuesday night.

More than a dozen people saw the UFO Wednesday night at the Lilly home.

Girls Say Red Object Chased Them On Road

POINT PLEASANT — Two young girls driving from Hartford to Point Pleasant Thursday night about 10 p.m. suddenly noticed a red object chasing them. First the red light was seen in front of their car, then in back of them.

They said they could not identify the object, but were frightened by it. As they traveled fast it would also go fast and when they slowed down it would do the same. When they reached Point Pleasant the light suddenly disappeared, the girls said.

Sunday night in the northern section of Point Pleasant several people saw two bright lights that were a different color than lights of a plane and traveling slowly and silently.

The first one went toward a red object in the sky that moved very slowly. When the bright-lighted object reached the area close to the red light they both quickly disappeared and immediately another bright object made a zig-zag performance before it too disappeared like the turning off of an electric light.

Where The Waters Mingle

By MARY HYRE



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I had a letter this week from a friend of mine in London, England. She reports numerous UFO sightings in that country.

Saucer Hunting Is New Warm Weather Sport

POINT PLEASANT — Warm weather has aided the "saucer hunting" craze which has swept the area.

Friday night, the TNT and Camp Conley area was filled

with people looking for the UFO's which have been spotted by several people lately.

These unidentified flying objects have been seen in the area for over three weeks and as many as eight sightings have been reported in one night. Friday night several people reported a sighting over 30th Street.

The objects vary in color. Some are just one red light, while others change from red to white and sometimes throw in a little blue and green.

Friday night one observer watched them through a telescope and said that they were definitely not planes, but round objects.

As with last year's "flying monster," the public is baffled as to just what they really are.

More UFO Sightings Reported

POINT PLEASANT — Sightings of unidentified flying objects, reported by many witnesses over the past several weeks, continued in the Point Pleasant area Friday night.

Several persons reported they saw a round object with bright ray of lights making a circle in the downtown area over Central School.

Other reports were received from the Sandy Heights Addition vicinity between 9:30 and 10 p.m. Witnesses said the object was rotating.

A similar UFO has been spotted in the Huntington area over the past several weeks.

It's Saucers On Parade . . .

Reports apparently confirming recent sightings of unidentified flying objects in the Tri-State Area continued to mount Friday.

Scores of persons have now said they have seen strange objects in the sky which defy description except in the "flying saucer" category.

Oct - 5/67

Page 6 — THE MESSENGER, Athens

Lights Seen By Family Near Park

NELSONVILLE — Strange lights moving east and west Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning were observed by Clyde Shingler and members of his family from their home on US 33 near the Diamond Roadside Park.

They reported there was no sound from the lighted objects and they could only class them as unidentified flying objects. At one time the sound of a single jet plane could be heard for a short period, it was said.

The lights would move from east to west circling at what appeared to be a light in the sky then moving west to east. This movement continued from about 7 p.m. Tuesday to 4 a.m. Wednesday, Shingler reported.

Where The Waters Mingle

By MARY HYRE



A retired Mason County school teacher is the latest person to relate a UFO sighting. Wallie Barnett, 77, Point Pleasant Route 2, said when he first sighted the object, he thought it was a plane crashing on the hilltop back of his home.

The object, about the size of a Volkswagen, came within 60 feet of him. He said it had two red lights about four inches in diameter in front. In the back, there were several little white lights that looked as if they were doing a square dance.

Barnett reported that when it came near him, it appeared to have windows with lights, but as the object got closer, the lights went out. He went around his dog house to get a closer look, but it disappeared suddenly.

He had gone into the yard when he heard his dogs barking. The object hovered in front of the dog kennel for a short period.

John Keel of New York, who is making a study of UFOs, and who has been in this area for about three weeks talking to area persons who have reported strange sightings, made one of his own.

About 1:35 a.m. on April 3, he was in the Gallipolis Ferry area when he saw a large object descend behind some trees for about 10 seconds, and then disappear into a ravine.

Keel said the most prominent light was one of a brilliant green, but it had a red light on top, and also had bright lights

that looked like portholes. He said it appeared very suddenly and was no more than 100 or 150 feet from him.

He and members of the sheriff's department went into the area the next day with a geiger counter, but they were unable to find anything.

[REDACTED]

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Our 'Bird' *Register* Has Law *Nov. 19, 1966* On Its Side

If Mason County's "bird" should prove to be a Sandhill Crane, as suggested by Dr. Robert Smith of the West Virginia University Biology Department, then the law is on its side to provide protection.

Officials note that migratory birds of all kinds are protected by federal and state wildlife laws.

Millard Halstead, Mason County Sheriff's Deputy, said Friday, he had been in contact with Dr. Smith and from a comparison of descriptions feels that the "bird man" might be a Sandhill Crane. The bird stands five to six feet tall, has about an 80-inch wing spread and has patches of red around its eyes.

Halstead said the bird is extremely rare, and he understands there are only 30 of them left in this country.

Sheriff George Johnson said he would arrest any persons caught in the TNT area with a loaded gun after dark. There were earlier reports of armed people roaming the area. Johnson has asked that residents not harm the bird.

Not Mason Mothman, Is It An Owl?

POINT PLEASANT — Point Pleasant may well be tagged "Birdland" if bird stories and bird sightings continue to make news locally.

The newest story concerns another large, strange bird. However, this one is dead.

Ace Henry of Gallipolis Ferry, saw a large bird perched on his barn Tuesday night, and thinking it was a hawk shot it with a 20-gauge shotgun.

Henry reports the bird has a wingspan of about five feet and is two feet tall. The underside of the wings are white, and the rest is speckled with gray, with white rough around its eyes and white feathers covering its claws.

He said the bird is identical to a picture he has of a snowy owl. The snowy owl breeds in the Arctic and migrates as far south as the Caribbean Sea.

More UFOs Reported

POINT PLEASANT — More UFO sightings were reported Friday in the area of Point Pleasant. A woman said she looked out her window at 4 a.m. and saw a bright orange light hovering over houses on Jackson Avenue near Tiny's Drive-Inn.

Other people reported seeing lights around midnight also in the Point Pleasant area.

Many sightings have been reported by people residing in the Hartford and New Haven area in recent days.

TNT Area Again Scene Of Sighting

POINT PLEASANT — A traffic cop will be needed in the Camp Conley area if UFOs continue to pass over that area. It was reported that last night the area was packed full of cars. The TNT area is also a site where hundreds of people are going nightly to look for UFOs.

One was seen again last night. A unidentified plane was nearby and as it started toward the area ground observers said the UFO disappeared.

The TNT area last night looked like the traffic flow when the "monster" was seen in that area last November.

'Bird' Gets Once-Over

Robert L. Smith, associate professor of wildlife management at West Virginia University, has given "bird stories" the business in his weekly column for the Morgantown Dominion-Post.

A copy of his column was offered The Register by R. Ivan Pinnell, police reporter for the Morgantown Post who said the article appeared in our paper as a result of the sighting of a bird similar to that seen in Mason County."

Pinnell said "the Monongalia County bird had one difference—it had large green eyes." He noted that Monongalia Sheriff Charles J. Whiston feels the bird there is "a hoax." He said it was only seen once,

about two days "after your bird was sighted."

Professor Smith, who previously informed the Mason County Sheriff's Office that the "bird" here probably was a sandhill crane, wrote as follows:

"This week I had planned to write about venison, more specifically on the care and handling of the deer carcass. But instead I am going to write about the sandhill crane, simply to set the record straight about the

"monster" bird that made the headline in Mason County. Much of the information has been misinterpreted, added to, subtracted and changed with the telling. The releases were beautiful examples of how a

story can change with each retelling.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the "strange monster" or "large terrifying bird" or what have you was a sandhill crane. The identification was rather easy from the descriptions of the bird in the news releases.

"The sandhill crane is a large bird, standing four to 4½ feet tall. Its stance is rather erect, and it walks with a strong deliberate stride that seen in the dark might vaguely suggest a human. The bird is blue-gray in color except for the bare-red colored skin on the forehead and crown. Under the glare of headlights the reflection of the eyes and the roundish red pat-

ches on the head would leave the impression of two large red eyes. Startled, the bird might have extended its wings which with its upright posture could account for the description of "wings like an angel's."

"The bird has a wingspread of about seven feet, yet in spite of its size it weighs only about eight pounds. Most highly exaggerated was its speed of flight, supposedly around 100 miles an hour. With a real strong tail wind, the bird might do 50; the actual flight speed is probably much closer to 30.

"At one time the sandhill crane occurred as a breeding bird or migrant from California. SEE STORY NO. 1 PAGE 3

Gigantic, Fuzzy Bird Chases Auto In Storm

POINT PLEASANT — The "monster," which created perhaps one of the most bizarre surprise incidents in Mason County last December, was seen again last week during a heavy rain storm by a Middleport resident who asked that his name not be published.

The man said that the large fuzzy thing started hovering over his car near New Haven on Route 33 and followed him to the golf course just north of Mason.

He said its wing span was as wide as the highway and its fuzzy wings hung down on each side of the car. He said it frightened him very much, although he could see nothing but the wings.

Last December four Point Pleasant people, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Scarberry and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Mallette, were chased by a strange bird-like object from the TNT area to the city limits. They said it had a wide wing span and red eyes. Others also saw it later when it chased their cars.

Sunday night a couple reported that while traveling on Route 17 for several miles toward Point Pleasant, a bright light went across the highway in front of them in a ball shape and then followed them on the hill side to Henderson. Then it sent in a southern direction and disappeared. Many other similar sightings have also been reported.

Ohio Woman Says UFOs Killed 2 Cows

By United Press International

West-central Ohioans continued to report sighting unidentified flying objects Sunday, including a woman who excitedly phoned police to say one landed in a pasture and killed a couple of dozing cows.

UFO sightings were reported in six counties with descriptions varying from "orange-colored objects" to "grayish discs with red and bluish-green lights."

Patrolman Charles Conklin of the Greenfield Police Department said a "very excited" woman told him Sunday night an oblong object with blinking lights landed in a nearby Highland County field, killing two cows.

The county sheriff dispatched an airplane and several cruisers to the area, but a three-hour search turned up no UFO and no dead cattle.

"Her directions were only half-way reliable," Conklin said adding that she hung up before he could get her name or address.

Separate sightings of what was described as a huge oval of amber light with a bright white

middle band were reported by Madison County sheriff's deputy Robert Hunter and state employe Roger Spencer.

The object was hovering over the north side of London, Ohio according to Hunter who saw it from the Madison County sheriff's office. Spencer claimed he saw the object while working on the north side of the community at the Bureau of Criminal Identification.

In Montgomery County, an officer took a black and white photograph of an object with red and green blinking lights which reportedly showed very fine details of the UFO. Officials, however, refused to release the photo until further investigations are conducted.

In a three-county area along Interstate 75 between Dayton and Cincinnati, the UFO's were described as "grayish discs with red and bluish-green lights."

"It continuously glowed," said Lt. Charles Jones of the Madison County Sheriff's office. "It was traveling very slow. Very, very slow. It would go dim and then brighten up. It was actually in the shape of a blimp."

More Reliable Information

UFO Reports Gain Credence

This is the fifth in a series of articles appearing in The Herald-Advertiser and The Herald-Dispatch on unidentified flying objects. Hupco Reporter Ron Hite has researched hundreds of reports of UFOs in the Tri-State and interviewed Air Force officials at Dayton.

By RON HITE

UFO reports were dismissed as only the work of pranksters for many years, but recently well-informed and respected citizens have

reported strange objects hovering in the sky. The fact that more reliable persons have reported UFO's means deeper consideration must now be given to such reports.

One such well-informed person who reported a sighting was Weirton Attorney John Vujnovic.

According to Mr. Vujnovic, the sighting was made last October 7 — the night before the West Virginia University-Pitt football game.

He described his experience this way:

"My 10-year-old son and I

were driving south on State Rt. 66 from Chester, W. Va. to Weirton. We spotted an object in the sky as we were leaving the racetrack at Chester.

"While driving toward New Cumberland, we saw a light come on hovering near a hillside. The light started coming toward the car and I guess my son was frightened and I slowed the car so that we were a good distance behind the object.

"The object had an outer circular light that glowed, but there was no sound at all. I

stopped the car for a better look and the thing started coming down over the highway. I think it was about 400 feet in the air."

He reported that the object looked about 25-feet in diameter and was about five-feet high at the widest point.

"At one time, it looked as if there were windows in the craft and after it got past we could see a revolving light. The outer glow of the light made a fast-flickering type of

(See **THREE**, Page 10)

8 Witnesses Now Testifying To Seeing Flying Creature

POINT PLEASANT, W. Va. (UPI)—Eight people say they saw a flying creature near this Ohio River community, a dog could have fallen victim to "it," and now a Kanawha County gravedigger saw a "brown man" fly past him last week end.

Kenneth Duncan of Blue Creek near Charleston said he and some other men were digging his brother-in-law's grave on Saturday when something that "looked like a brown human being" buzzed past.

"It was gliding through the trees and was in sight for about a minute," Duncan said. Four other men helping to dig the grave didn't see it.

The "thing," described as a huge bird-like creature with eyes like "red reflectors" and a wing span of 10 feet, first was reported to police by Steve Mallette and Roger Scarberry and their wives who said they saw it three times late Tuesday and early Wednesday about five miles north of here.

Four other persons also told Mason County Sheriff George Johnson they saw it in the same general area.

And a contractor, Newell Partridge, who lives 100 miles to the north, said he feels it may have had something to do with the disappearance of his \$350 German shepherd dog, Bandit.

Partridge said he sighted the "thing" in a meadow near his home in Doddridge County about 90 minutes before the Point Pleasant sightings.

Partridge said his television set "began acting like a generator" and Bandit "started carrying on something terrible."

Partridge said he shined a flashlight into the field and saw something with eyes like "red, reflectors." The dog's hair stood straight up, he said, and the animal went into the field.

The dog never returned, Partridge said, and there was no trace of it in the morning.

Johnson said he was not discounting the stories he was told but said he feels what was seen was nothing more than a "freak shitepoke," a large bird of the heron family.

The shitepoke, sometimes called a shag, is the smallest heron in the Western Hemisphere. Officials were at a loss, however, to explain how a shag could fly at 100 miles per hour as Scarberry and Mallette, Partridge, who lives 100 miles

Says 'It' is Sandhill Crane

Dr. Robert Smith, West Virginia University, informed Mason County Sheriff's Department this morning that "The Bird" or "Thing" reported seen by at least eight persons during the past three nights in his opinion is a Sand Hill Crane, found generally in Florida, Georgia, the Mississippi Valley, and northward to Manitoba.

Dr. Smith said the "monster" doesn't really have big red eyes—that it has red feathers around the eyes, 80-inch wing spread, and it does stand six feet or better.

Dr. Smith said it would not attack humans, unless provoked. It is mainly a vegetarian. He added, "It does have a large bill, and could kill a dog but would not eat it."

Dr. Smith will send officials a sketch of the big bird.

Excitement Dying Down:

Mysterious 'Mothman' Said Still at Large

POINT PLEASANT, W. Va. (AP) — The mysterious mothman was still at large near this normally quiet Ohio River community, but the excitement he caused is dying down.

The excitement began two weeks ago when Mr. and Mrs. Roger Scarberry and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Mallett, all of Point Pleasant, spotted a large white apparition flying at high speed, following their car.

They told a deputy sheriff it

looked like "a flying man with 10 foot wings." They said it was about seven feet tall with large red eyes.

These reports brought curious crowds to the McClintic Wildlife Station where the incident occurred. Volunteer fire department members had to help keep traffic moving.

During the next three days at least eight persons reported various similar creatures. On Nov. 18 two volunteer firemen, Capt. Paul Yoder and Benjamin Enoch, said they saw what definitely was a very large bird with large red eyes.

Dr. Robert L. Smith, associate professor of wildlife biology at WVU, said the descriptions all fitted the sandhill crane, the second largest American crane, which stands almost as high as a man and has a wingspan of more than seven feet.

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They fled inside the house and called police. Later they ventured outside and spotted the creature watching them while partially hidden behind a pile of bricks. They said the creature then flew away.

At the time of the spotting, officers and fire department volunteers were searching near an old power plant in the TNT area, where the monster was first spotted Tuesday night by two young couples.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Mallette and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Scarborough said the thing chased their car at speeds up to 100 miles an hour around midnight Tuesday.

Officers said the TNT area was flooded with curious sightseers Wednesday night. One motorist reported his children "wanted to see it right now."

Several people reported they had to take their children out because "they about drove us mad wanting to see it."

One man contended it was something caused by the U. S. space program. He said, "You see, it's that talk of going to the moon and that stuff. It's hard to tell what they've caused to come back to earth."

Mrs. Thomas, who was at church during Wednesday night's sighting, said she had a vision Monday night that a creature would appear. In the vision, she said, the creature would frighten people, but not harm anyone.

Firemen Make Latest Sighting

Eerie Cry Fits Description

(Continued From Page 1)

attained when pursuing their car.

Dr. Smith warned that while the sandhill crane is harmless if left alone, that if cornered it may become a formidable antagonist. Its dagger-like bill is a dangerous weapon which the crane does not hesitate to use when at bay and fighting for its life. Many a hunter's dog has been badly injured, he said.

Some of those who reported seeing the "monster" remembered best the eerie sound it made. The description of the sandhill crane also fits there.

"The cry of the sandhill crane is a veritable voice of nature, untamed and untrifled," says one book on birds. "Its uncanny quality is like that of the loon, but is more pronounced because of the much greater volume of the crane's voice. Its resonance is remarkable and its carrying power is increased by a distinct tremolo effect. Often for several minutes after the birds have vanished, the unearthly sound drifts back to the listener, like a taunting trumpet from the underworld."

Meanwhile, for the fourth night in a row, an area of the wildlife station again was clogged Friday night with the curious searching for the "thing".

The latest reported sighting came Friday morning from two Point Pleasant volunteer firemen, Captain Paul Yoder

and Benjamin Enochs.

"As we were going into the picnic area in the TNT area, Paul and I saw this white shadow go across the car," Mr. Enochs reported. "This was about 1:30 a. m. Paul stopped the car and I went into the field, but couldn't see anything. I'd say this definitely was a large bird of some kind."

Meanwhile, authorities issued a warning to "monster hunters."

If the "thing" is a migratory

crane they had better not shoot it. Migratory birds of all kinds are protected by federal and state wildlife laws.

Sheriff Johnson said he would arrest anybody caught with a loaded gun in the area after dark. There were earlier reports of armed people in the area.

Sheriff Johnson also warned that the scores of persons searching the abandoned powerhouse in the TNT area after dark risk possible serious injury.

was gone and the bird was standing near the C.C. Lewis farm gate.

The "thing," which has been described by clever writers and newscasters throughout the country as a "monster moth," "red-eyed demon" and "bird-man," was spotted near here about 90 minutes after the Doddridge County dog disappeared.

Patridge said his flashlight picked up "two red reflections" in his meadow and at this the dog's hair stood up, he bared his teeth and rushed into the woods.

Doddridge County is approximately 60 miles from here — as the "bird" flies. And the local couples said the creature they saw traveled about 100 miles an hour.

Officials at McClintic today wouldn't hazard a guess at what the bird might be. But many others would.

Sheriff Johnson said the youths had "seen something" unusual to scare them. He theorized it may have been an "oversized Shitepoke, possibly a freak of nature." (This bird is also known as a "Shagpoke" and actually is a large bird with spindly legs, long wing spread, web-feet and lives around water, and makes a "raucous noise," they say.)

The bird mentioned above is sometimes referred to as a green heron and it roosts in day and feeds at night.

Another theory is that a South American vulture which has been seen as far north as Canada. And, reportedly, its flight path (pre-arranged, of course) is through this area.

Other observers feel it might be a Canadian goose, since many have gathered at McClintic ponds on their way south.

Nevertheless, there is something out there, and the curiosity won't cease until it's found — if ever.

UPI Reporter Robert M. Gornall was here last evening to get the story and his dispatch is being carried to distant points. In it he told of seeing "oval-shaped footprints measuring about 4½ inches across and fresh animal droppings none of the natives in the party could identify."

He asked the question: Is there a "Mason County Monster?"

While the "bird" is the talk of the town at the moment, the incident also is bringing prominence to the city.

One citizen exclaimed: "After all, it's a bird sanctuary!" An Mayor D. B. Morgan was cited

as the "instigator" for having signed a proclamation recently for the sanctuary.

While cars jammed the TNT area last night, it was noticeable that the Audobon Society was missing the boat. No one was handing out membership applications.

UFO Writer Coming Here; Sighting Told

John Keel, free-lance writer from New York who has been spending numerous months digging into UFO reports, will be in Point Pleasant the next two weeks doing research.

He will be available to lecture to any group interested.

Keel was here several months ago when the "bird" was cited, writing for True magazine.

He is a well-known writer and is fast becoming a top "ufologist" in the nation.

Meanwhile, there were reports that as many as 20 people in downtown Point Pleasant sighted an unidentified flying

City Getting 'The Bird,' Want It Or Not

By JOHN SAMSELL,
Editor of The Register
Like it or not, Point Pleasant
is getting "too bad."
Every state two young couples
visited a man-made creature in
the McClellan WHITE Area
Tuesday night, ridicule after

Nevertheless, I was seen again last night by several of the hundreds of curious citizens seeking the massive area.

The latest to see the "Gator" were Raymond Gurnsey, 12, Cathy Wamsley, 18, Marcelle Bennett, 21, and Nancy Thomas, 15, according to the Museum.

They told Sheriff George Jones the 'trape bird' was in yard of Ralph Thomas, whose home is located northwest of White Church Road in the T area.

about 10 p.m. Wednesday. The bird-like creature circled around the car and stared at them and then soared away. The Civil Defense and National Guard were patrolling the area last night along with the sheriff and deputies.

Meanwhile, a United Press International dispatch from Bridgwater County reported that "something with red-rimmed eyes" was spotted in a meadow on a farm Tuesday night shortly before the owner's expensive German Shepherd dog was killed.

Newell Fairbridge, a building contractor, was quoted as saying that the three-year-old Shagbark "Haddock" went into the creek some time after the "ding" and never returned.

Bird, Plane Or Batman?

▲ Mason Countians Hunt 'Moth Man'

By PAT SILER
POINT PLEASANT—Sight-
ers clogged the roads north
—here Wednesday night as
ason countians flocked to
desolate TNT area to join
search for the "Monster
Man."

...deputies reported
two couples told them
they had sighted the
"pure" Tuesday night
the old powerhouse, five

It has been variously described as a flying man with a ten-foot wingspread capable of pursuing cars at 100 miles per hour, and as a huge gray and white bird "with wings like an angel and legs like a man, seven feet tall with two large, red eyes about six inches apart.

Officials at the McClintock Wildlife Station said no such

description can be found in any of their fowl manuals. They did suggest, however, that it is geese migrating time, and that flights have been sighted in the area.

But Mr. and Mrs. Roger Scarberry, and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Mallett maintain that the "thing" followed their car Tuesday night, zig-zagging in front of the auto as it speeded along W. Va. 62.

The men told deputies the creature veered away as the car approached the Point Pleasant city limits.

The volunteer fire department was called to assist Wednesday night in traffic duty at the scene of the "fly-over."

One fireman commented:
"It looks like Mason County
fair time."

Not Correct - Civil never did
appear in front of Car.



FANTASY OR FACT—Residents of Mason County who have been chasing a strange manlike flying thing—whether it be a monster or behemoth—now have something tangible to look at. Jack Park, Point Pleasant, has painted a large fierce bird based on various descriptions of the thing which has been spotted several times in Northern West Virginia since Nov. 17. Deputy Sheriff Millard Halstead photographed the artists' conception in the TNT area, near Point Pleasant where the thing was spotted numerous times. Officials report the isolated area is still packed each night with car loads of people searching for the monster.

Cheshire People Tell Of Strange Sightings

By MARY HYRE

Point Pleasant Correspondent

CHESHIRE — Strange objects have been seen in the Cheshire area during the past several weeks, but witnesses have been reluctant to talk about the sightings. Sunday night, however, several revealed their stories.

Mrs. Roy Grose, Cheshire, said that she was awakened by the barking of her dog at 4:45 a.m., Nov. 17. She got up to see what was wrong.

The moon was shining very brightly that night, she said, and when she looked out the kitchen window, she saw a bright-colored circular object on the other side of Route 7.

The saucer - shaped object, Mrs. Grose went on, was the size of a small house with what looked like sections or compartments of blue and red windows.

The object was over an open field at about housetop level, she said, and its brilliant lights were visible for about 30 or 40 seconds before it zigzagged and

suddenly disappeared.

As she was watching the object, Mrs. Grose said that she was afraid to call the rest of the family because it might have left by the time they got back to the window. In describing her feelings of that morning, the housewife and piano teacher said only, "I was stunned."

On the other side of town, Charles Hern, an employee at the Kyger Creek Power Plant, took his dog out for a walk along the Ohio River at about 6:30 a.m. last Thursday morning.

He noticed a red light across the river. At first he thought it was only a trapper in a boat checking his muskrat traps, but as he looked he realized that it was something he had never seen before, he said.

He called his wife, and together they saw that the light was on the shore. It appeared, they said, that little people were going to and from the object.

Mrs. Hern said that they were

so stunned and dazzled that they decided to call their neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Taylor.

Mrs. Taylor, a school teacher, was the first to come outside, and she, too, saw the red and orange lights shining from the object by the river. She said that one of the lights was directed toward the water part of the time. Taylor, who arrived at the scene soon after his wife, collaborated with the other witnesses.

Although the others went back inside, Mrs. Hern remained outside for awhile. The lights went out she said, and then lights of another color appeared. Then, she said, the object went straight up and vanished.

Hern said, "I've lived on this river bank since I was 12 years old and I know every boat light, but this definitely was something I've never seen before."

A high school student reportedly saw an object of a similar description south of there at

about 5 a.m. that same morning.

A George Creek woman reported that she was traveling along George Creek Road at about 7 p.m. Friday evening with her four children when they saw a redish orange metallic object just above a utility pole. It was the size of a helicopter, she said, adding that it definitely was not one.

She said that it moved along the highway in front of the car for about a mile, disappearing as it approached the brighter lights of the power transformers.

The sightings were near the area where a large bird-like creature has been reported in recent weeks.

John A. Keel, a magazine writer from New York City, has been in the area since Wednesday collecting material on both the UFO and creature sightings. He said that the sightings are similar to others throughout the United States,

Unusual Objects In Sky Spotted In Three Counties

POINT PLEASANT —UFO's have made quite a display since Sunday night in three counties, Mason, Putnam and Roane.

Sunday night just before dark a long, black object with no wings or any visible gear glided very low over Point Pleasant.

A few hours later north of Point Pleasant, several people saw a white light very low in the east. Among the people seeing the bright light was John A. Keel, a noted ufologist, writer and lecturer. Keel has done extensive research on UFO sightings and has traveled many miles during the past year.

The white light was visible for about ten minutes, bobbed up and down and suddenly vanished.

A Putnam County man, Albert

Meetings In Meigs

Brown, a shift superintendent at the new mining operations at Elmwood, reported that when he left work at 12:45 Monday morning he noticed a strange white light very low as he traveled toward his Buffalo home. On Tribble Road and Route 35, this object stayed in his view.

He said he finally stopped and watched the UFO, and it turned colors of blue and orange and bobbed up and down. It would first be on top of the hill, then disappear behind the hill and then reappear. He tried to find a road that would lead him to where it seemed to be stationary, but was unable to do so.

He noted that he parked his truck and watched the object for about four hours and then went home and awakened his wife, Shirley, to show her what he had seen. She reported that it was the brightest and strangest light she had ever seen.

Brown, deciding that this was something that should be investigated, called the Civil Defense in Charleston. But they told him to call the state police.

The object had gone by the time they arrived.

Mrs. Brown said she had received a call from Gary Davidson, Spencer, who said he had seen a similar object in the Spencer area Sunday evening about 7 p.m.

(ADVERTISEMENT)

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8 Witnesses Now Testifying To Seeing Flying Creature

POINT PLEASANT, W. Va. (UPI)—Eight people say they saw a flying creature near this Ohio River community, a dog could have fallen victim to "it," and now a Kanawha County gravedigger saw a "brown man" fly past him last weekend.

Kenneth Duncan of Blue Creek near Charleston said he and some other men were digging his brother-in-law's grave on Saturday when something that "looked like a brown human being" buzzed past.

"It was gliding through the trees and was in sight for about a minute," Duncan said. Four other men helping to dig the grave didn't see it.

The "thing," described as a huge bird-like creature with eyes like "red reflectors" and a wing span of 10 feet, first was reported to police by Steve Mallette and Roger Scarberry and their wives who said they saw it three times late Tuesday and early Wednesday about five miles north of here.

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And a contractor, Newell Partridge, who lives 100 miles

to the north, said he feels it may have had something to do with the disappearance of his \$350 German shepherd dog, Bandit.

Partridge said he sighted the "thing" in a meadow near his home in Doddridge County about 90 minutes before the Point Pleasant sightings.

Partridge said his television set "began acting like a generator" and Bandit "started carrying on something terrible."

Partridge said he shined a flashlight into the field and saw something with eyes like "red reflectors." The dog's hair stood straight up, he said, and the animal went into the field.

The dog never returned, Partridge said, and there was no trace of it in the morning.

Johnson said he was not discounting the stories he was told but said he feels what was seen was nothing more than a "freak shitepoke," a large bird of the heron family.

The shitepoke, sometimes called a shag, is the smallest heron in the Western Hemisphere. Officials were at a loss, however, to explain how a shag could fly at 100 miles per hour as Scarberry and Mallette

said the creature did.

Creature Seen Near Appleseed Park

NELSONVILLE — Four Nelsonville women returning Wednesday night from work at the Logan Goodyear plant were quite shaken when a huge bird nearly collided with their car near the Johnny Appleseed Roadside Park, near the Athens-Hocking County line on Route 33.

From their description, the

bird is similar to a creature which has been sighted in the vicinity of Point Pleasant for several weeks.

Dixie Auflick was driving the car. Passengers were Edna Guess, Betty Hook and Kathleen Bond, all Goodyear employees.

The incident occurred sometime between 11 and 11:30 p.m.

Mrs. Guess said they had stopped at the park to close a car door which had been not tightly latched. They traveled a few hundred feet from the park when the bird swooped in front of the car from the right.

There is a small swamp area between the highway and the railroad, extending to the Hocking River.

Mrs. Guess said the bird

barely skimmed over the top of the car and could be seen clearly. It had large red eyes. The body was described as "brownish and silvery." Another smaller bird followed close behind, they said.

A youth in Haydenville reportedly saw a similar bird near that community early last week.

Bird Killed Dec. 22-66

Where The Waters Mingle

*-Black

By MARY HYRE



Well, the great speckled bird is dead — but not the creature that has been seen by several in this area.

Ace Henry, Gallipolis Ferry, killed a large bird, which I would call a large white owl, Thursday at his home. It was certainly a pretty thing in colors of white and brown. *

This owl had a wing span of 59 inches but was only about two-feet tall. It had weird looking claws.

Henry said the bird looked pretty big perched on the top of his barn when he shot it. He brought it to town and several people saw it.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Mallette and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Scarberry, Point Pleasant, and Connie Carpenter, New Haven, said the owl did not fit the description of the large creature they saw several weeks ago.

Perhaps this owl has been seen by others who thought it looked very big flying in the air with nearly a five-foot wing span.

Some say that this type of owl is very rare in this area.

Fairmont Paper

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Mysterious 'Mothman' Said Still at Large

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The excitement began two weeks ago when Mr. and Mrs. Roger Scarberry and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Mallett, all of Point Pleasant, spotted a large white apparition flying at high speed, following their car.

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Both were slightly pale and tired from lack of sleep during the night following their harrowing experience.

They speculated that the thing was living in the vacant power plant, possibly in one of the huge boilers. "There are pigeons in all the other buildings," Mallette said, "but not in that one."

"If I had seen it while by myself I wouldn't have said anything," Scarberry commented, "but there were four of us who saw it."

They said it didn't resemble a bat in any way, but "maybe what you would visualize as an angel."

The last time they saw it was at the gate of the C. C. Lewis farm on Route 62.

They heard a sound like wings flapping and they said the bird rose straight up, like a helicopter.

"This doesn't have an explanation to it," Mallette said, "It was an animal but nothing like I've seen before."

Are they going back to look for the creature?

"Yes," Mallette said, "this afternoon and again tonight."

"Today," Scarberry said, "but tonight, I don't know!"

Where The Waters Mingle

By MARY HYRE



Just one year ago today, a news story appeared in the local papers that eventually was widespread across the nation telling of the experience of two married couples who were frightened by a "man-like thing" shortly after midnight early that morning. It was promptly labeled the "Mason County Monster."

The two young Mason County couples told of being chased by the "strange creature" which looked as if it stood six feet tall, had wings, and two big red eyes six inches apart. They reported that it was able to glide along behind their car at speeds up to 100 miles per hour.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Mallette and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Scarberry described their hair-raising experiences to newsmen following the event, which began in the TNT area.

This was not the last of this creature. A Clarksburg man later reported that he had seen it near the same area in the daytime, and Connie Carpenter of New Haven saw it near the Mason Golf Course, also in the daytime. The next night after it was seen by the two couples, it was sighted by seven people.

The reports have continued throughout the year, many of them coming from people who have asked not to use their names.

Just two weeks ago, it was reported to be seen running fast on the ground in the TNT area, and this week two husbands in the area also saw the creature. Others have reported seeing it along country roads, and describe it as a man-like creature with hair. One man saw it on Route 33 when it hovered over his car.

Is this thing still here? If the reports are true, it apparently never left the area.

Throughout the year many people have reported other sightings, including strange lights and daytime sightings of

disc-shaped UFO's that certainly were not airplanes as sometimes has been claimed.

Just this week in the area, several industrial workers saw an aluminum cigar-shaped object hovered in the area for nearly two hours. It was also reported on another day about the same hour, but that time it went around in circles with a rapid speed.

While many people just laugh and say that it is all a hoax, others are interested in finding out just where they are coming from and what they are. Those who have experienced seeing the creature or other strange objects will tell you that if you ever see one of things you will be a believer, and be frightened.

Soldiers stationed overseas read in the Stars and Stripes about the "Mason County Monster" and many of them sent clippings home. Thousands of people have come to the area during the past year just to see what is going on.

This area and the creature sightings and UFO's have been written up in many magazines throughout the past year, and a local TV firm has expressed interest in making an movie of this area.

to stay here, we another year, some the answer to just ing place.

Athens Messenger - 12-13-66
(seen on 12-11-66)

'Creature' Seen Again Flying Over TNT Area

POINT PLEASANT — Chester Leport, Point Pleasant, and Stevie Pearson Jr., 13, Point Pleasant Route 1, saw a strange object gliding over the TNT area Sunday about 3:30 p.m.

Leport said he and the boy were hunting for a Christmas tree when they saw a "greyish thing" gliding through the air making a strange noise at a very high rate of speed. He said it

wasn't close enough for him to see its features, but it was huge and looked like nothing he had seen before.

Leport said the thing apparently came from the Ohio side of the river and for a while he thought it was going to land.

There have been many reports of a flying creature in the TNT area over the past several weeks. One theory is that it is a sand hill crane.

Mystery Bird Seen Flying Over Avenue

POINT PLEASANT — It looked like a bird as big as a plane and had legs like a man, the latest Mason Monster sighter reported.

Mrs. Mabel McDaniel of 30th Street, Point Pleasant, said she saw a dark-colored flying creature with an extremely wide wingspan as she was driving on Jackson Avenue at about 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Mrs. McDaniel is the mother of Mrs. Roger Scarberry, one of the original sighters of the bird-like creature popularly known as the "Mason Monster."

A number of hunters have reported seeing owls, larger than normal size, in the Mason County area.

TNT Area Sightings Continuing

POINT PLEASANT — Mason County Civil Defense officials have joined the "hunt" as UFO sightings continue in the area. The officials are hoping to find out just what is being seen.

Last night in the TNT area, it was reported that one of the objects came close to parked cars. Reports indicated that as many as six sightings were made between 7 and 9 p.m. One policeman said that Monday night, an object came right over Point Pleasant. He said it had no sound, and was not a plane.

Monday night in the New Haven and Hartford area, it was reported that two disc-shaped objects were traveling close together.

Another person reported that on the highway Monday night, a big light came at their car. They followed the object, and reported that if they traveled fast, the light would also travel fast, but when they stopped, it would stop and then start up and disappear.

It was also reported that one person said they could see the form of a UFO, and added that it was round and had windows in it.

UFO Seen By Visitor

POINT PLEASANT — A visitor to Mason County Saturday night was startled en route to the home of relatives when she suddenly saw two bright lights that were almost blinding on a nearby hill as she drove along a country road in the northern part of the county.

The woman watched the unusual lights that looked like they were on the ground and then rushed to the home of relatives to tell them of her experience.

They all returned to the scene and the two lights were still there. They started to investigate when the UFO suddenly soared out of sight.

News Briefs

This UFO's Spelled C-119

POINT PLEASANT — The mysterious UFO sighted Monday night between 10 and 11 p. m. apparently was a C-119 on a training mission from Lockbourne Air Force Base, Columbus.

Airman Gerry Sampson, dispatcher, said the "flying box-cars" made almost daily flights over the area. They are equipped with a huge white light which scans the area below from different altitudes. He was not at liberty to say when the training flights began, nor could he verify the speed of the aircraft. The light is called the "light of freedom" and has been used extensively in Vietnam to reveal enemy positions.

"Sighters" Monday night said the craft appeared to hover over the area or was only capable of an extremely slow rate of speed. There was no apparent sound but one witness reported that the hills over which it was flying might have blocked out the sound of the motor.

Many residents have watched nightly but there have been no new sightings.

Several UFO's Spotted Over Holiday Weekend

POINT PLEASANT — The UFO's were out in many areas Monday night as they have been for several nights.

Monday night at 10 p.m. a bright light rose from a low position in the north section of Point Pleasant, then made a circle southeast. Then it met with another UFO that made the same circle as the first one, only in the opposite direction. At times the big light would be very bright, then it would fade away and at times go completely out all at once.

In the Mason area it was reported that people said this red object looked like a big ball of fire and that it turned to a white light that was also bright before it disappeared.

In Hartford, residents say that for several nights similar objects have been very low in that

area.

In other areas people have seen these strange lights and reported that their cars would almost stall and the lights get very dim on the car while the object was near.



Weird Sightings In Sky Observed By Motorists

(Continued From Page 1)

third. "One of the lights was brighter than the other two," he said. He spotted the objects about 8:15 p. m.

His mother reported that she could also see the lights.

Two youths, Doug Martin, 13, of 145 Olive St. and Larry Roberts, 13, of 449 Linden Circle, another carrier boy, said they saw a reddish-green object moving in the direction of U. S. Rt. 60 about 8 p. m. on March 2.

They said the object looked as if it had about a dozen lights on the bottom which changed from white to yellow. The lights were also blinking in sequence.

Although some reports were received from the immediate area of Huntington, most of the sightings were in the Milton area.

The same night (March 2) as the sightings in Huntington, a Milton woman said she and a relative spotted a lighted object in the sky. She described the object as having at least three lights which gave off a yellow color and hovered low in the sky.

On Wednesday, March 1, about 9:30 p. m. another Milton woman said a strange, saucer-like object hovered over her car as she was driving home from church along U. S. Rt. 60.

She said the object moved slowly over her automobile at an altitude of 100 to 200 yards. She described it as

being "round, flat on the bottom . . . dark, massive." It did not glow, she said, but it was well lighted. It had lights all around and on the left side were two blinking lights.

"I first noticed the object as I reached forward in the car to turn on the radio. It seemed the size of a small helicopter . . . maybe 20 feet or so in diameter." She emphasized that it could not have actually been a helicopter.

The following night a Wayne County man said he saw what appeared to be an object "made out of cloth, colored white and well lighted."

The object, he thought, was more oblong than round, but his two sons said they thought it was round. The object moved directly toward his car then veered upward and passed over them.

Among the other reports in the two-day period of March 2 and 3 there were reports that an International Nickel Co. employe saw a "strange bright white lights" about 2,000 feet above the ground hovering over the Twentyninth St. bridge at Rt. 60.

Also a Locust St. resident said his color television set suddenly went awry Wednesday night about 1 a. m. He said the colors on the screen scrambled and then the screen went black. He said he went into his yard to investigate the possible cause and saw a strange object passing through the sky. He also said a neighbor had reported the same incident.

Two teenagers reported that they saw a set of triangular shaped lights on both Thursday and Friday. They said they saw a total of four lights which were first white and then blinked red and white.

NIGHT RIDER IN SKY AFRAID OF LIGHTS

People in Mason County are talking about a flying man who is afraid of lights.

He is a 6-foot creature with a wingspan of 10 feet and can scoot along at 100 miles an hour.

Wednesday about midnight the gray and white replacement to mundane flying saucers startled two young couples driving north of Point Pleasant on W. Va. 62, they said.

Once they spotted it, they headed for town at 100 miles an hour and along came their weird airborne friend, breezing about 50 feet above them with the greatest of ease, they told police.

But once they neared the lighted confines of the town, the high horsepowered night rider in the sky veered around and took off toward the dark and less populous countryside—the two couples told police.

Another UFO

An unidentified flying object with brilliant white lights which later changed to red over Huntington was sighted about 9 p. m. Thursday. One observer telephoned Tri-State Airport and was told there were no aircraft in the area.

Where The Waters Mingle

By MARY HYRE



If a bill introduced in the West Virginia State Legislature Thursday by Sen. Randall A. Taylor (D-Mason) is made into a law, this state will sure be a modest one, and it won't do any of the manufacturers any good to try and sell topless dresses or bathing suits in this state.

Senator Taylor introduced a "nudist" bill which would make it unlawful to undress in the presence of others, so if you go to take a bath, be sure you don't forget the soap or towel before you undress and jump in the bathtub, because you can not call for help if this law goes into effect.

One lady told me she was quite concerned about the bill because of the poor little children who would not be able to have a bath until they are old enough to undress and bathe themselves, since the bill says it will be unlawful to undress in front of others.

One man told me that he was wondering just how the evidence is going to be sought to see if a man and wife undress in the same room. He said there sure are going to have to be a lot of Peeping Toms.

It was also brought to my attention that perhaps the doctors should fight this bill, because they wouldn't be able to have the nurses undress the patients in preparing for examinations, and the people would all have to go to another state to see a doctor. I bet the nurses will be happy that they will no longer have to give patients a bath. If they do, it will sure have to be under cover.

Another measure will have to be taken at the swimming pools, because the state law requires one to take a shower before entering the pool, so there will be a big line waiting at the shower stalls. Also, the athletic boys will all have to be very modest and have private shower rooms.

What about the boy who gets to take off for his favorite swimming hole or the river and swims in the nude? That should also be a thing of the past.

I feel that if this becomes a law, it will be one that is violated more than any law ever made. What do you think?

Senator Taylor offered the bill in the Senate to fight nudist camps in the state, and since Mason County has one, he would like to make it a law that it is a misdemeanor to sell land for such purposes.

It seems that West Virginia is seeing its share of strange objects. The latest was by Tad Jones of Danbur who said he came upon the unidentified

Flying Object on Interstate 64. Its description is like that of many which have been reported in many areas of the United States and around the world.

One woman in Point Pleasant reported several weeks ago about seeing something like that but it was in the air several hundred feet. There are also, of course, the sightings of the monster and the unidentified objects seen recently by people in Cheshire, Gallipolis, Eureka and Addison.

There is an interesting article in the February issue of True Magazine by John Koel of New York, who was here doing research for another article about the strange sightings in this area. The latter article will probably appear in the August or September issue.

In the article appearing this month, he says that each new sighting only adds to the mystery, one that the government has assigned scientists at the University of Colorado to solve. Any immediate solution, however, seems improbable.

The origins and motivations of these creatures, if they are real, can only be speculated. But millions of people throughout the world are now convinced that something is going on, and that there is "somebody out there." More and more, respected scientists are beginning to take the matter seriously as they delve into the question of life on other worlds.

Athens Messenger

ATHENS, OHIO, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1966

Ohio River Valley

THE WEATHER

Cloudy and colder tonight.
Low in mid 30s. Saturday partly
cloudy and colder. High in the
upper 40s.

TEN CENTS

Monster No Joke For Those Who Saw It

By ROGER BENNETT
Assistant News Editor

"They think it's a big joke. They think we can go out there and it'll come out for us."

"It" is the red-eyed, winged-back, six-foot manlike thing which has turned a remote section of Mason County, W. Va., into a dusty, car-packed thrill show.

"They" are the hundreds of curious sightseers, who have jammed a 10,000-acre east of Point Pleasant each night since the creature was sighted by two young married couples last Tuesday.

The sightseers know there isn't such a thing, but they aren't about to miss a chance seeing it.

The people who've seen it so far, especially Mr. and Mrs. Roger Scarberry and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Mallett, are afraid they'll see it again. But they keep joking.

"I hope others do see it. I hope it scares them as much as it did us. Maybe then they'll believe the thing exists and we're not dreaming," Mrs. Mallett said.

The two couples first spotted the creature Tuesday in the sprawling, murky area which contains the McClintic Wildlife Sanctuary and a huge abandoned TNT plant. Most of the property is government owned.

Thursday night the area was ablaze from the lights of cars and flashlights as the curious

traveled up and down the maze of dirt roads. Police officials estimate more than 1,600 persons were searching the area prior to midnight.

Every intersection was jammed with parked cars and small clumps of laughing, jostling young adults. Huge abandoned powder plant buildings rang with the shrieks of youngsters, scaring themselves more in the pitch-black plants than the people standing in the narrow roadways.

Volunteer police officers and firemen — creeping through the crowds — have one major fear. They estimated that each car in the area had at least one gun. One officer heard an automatic rifle bark several times

Thursday night behind one of the many buildings.

Early sightings — besides that of the two couples — have several things in common. The description includes two red eyes about six inches apart, wings with 18-foot span and always manlike with stocky legs. These sightings came from Ossimore. Ruffled, several persons at an isolated home near the TNT plant and one in Doddridge County, W. Va., east of Parkersburg.

The Scarberrys and the Malletts said they believe the thing "didn't mean to harm us," even though Mrs. Scarberry had to be treated for shock, only to chase them away. At one time the creature came within 100 feet of their car.

In all they spotted it five times the first night. They've seen it twice since. The first night it chased their car at speeds up to 100, gliding above and behind the vehicle. It emitted a sound similar to a "record played at a high speed or squeak of a mouse."

What is it? They don't know but they're sure it isn't a bird.

One thing that bothers Mallett is the pigeons. They've all disappeared from the abandoned power plant building, near where the creature was first spotted.

Pigeons can be seen in all the other buildings scattered throughout the area, but not in the huge double smoke-stacked power plant.

Monster Returns To Mason

By MARY NYRE
Point Pleasant Correspondent
POINT PLEASANT — Six — or maybe seven — more people became believers in the Mason County Monster Wednesday night.

What is it they saw? They don't know, but they have managed to convince a raft of people they saw something.

The latest observers of the red-eyed, wing-backed six-foot thing are Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Wamsley; Ricky, Connie and Vickie Thomas and Marcela Bennett.

They spotted the monster around 9 p. m. Wednesday outside the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Thomas, in the TNT area, where the thing was sighted Tuesday night.

Observer number seven is reported to be a Cheshire area youth who allegedly was chased by a thing matching the description of the Mason County Monster. The chase took place on Route 7 in Ohio.

Wednesday night's sighting took place as the Wamsleys and the Thomas children were leaving the Thomas home. They said the red-eyed creature was lying on the road behind a car.

and called police. Later they ventured outside and spotted the creature watching them while partially hidden behind a pile of bricks. They said the creature then flew away.

At the time of the spotting, officers and fire department volunteers were searching near an old power plant in the TNT area, where the monster was first spotted Tuesday night by two young couples.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Mallette and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Scarberry said the thing chased their car at speeds up to 100 miles an hour around midnight Tuesday.

Officers said the TNT area was flooded with curious sight-seers Wednesday night. One motorist reported his children "wanted to see it right now."

Several people reported they had to take their children out because "they about drove us mad wanting to see it."

One man contended it was something caused by the U. S. space program. He said, "You see, it's that talk of going to the moon and that stuff. It's hard to tell what they've caused to come back to earth."

Mrs. Thomas, who was at church during Wednesday night's sighting, said she had a vision Monday night that a creature would appear. In the vision, she said, the creature would frighten people, but not harm anyone.

Auto Crash

POINT PLEASANT, W. Va. (UPI) — The mystery of the flying "whatever" was continued here Thursday.

Four more persons reported seeing a huge, winged creature with red eyes, and in Doddridge county, more than 100 miles to the north, a farmer reported a German shepherd was "degraded" by the thing.

Mason County Sheriff George Johnson said he does not discount the stories of the creature, but said he has not seen it. He said four years ago they saw the creature three times late Tuesday and early Wednesday night.

Johnson said he feels whatever "whatever" is, it is not a large bird of the barnyard variety. The silhouette, or shape as it is known, is the smallest he has seen. No one, however, could explain how

a thing of similar large bird could fly 100 m.p.h. as Scarberry and Mallette said they could take its detector tests.

They said they saw it, all four of them, in Doddridge county near Harrison, Ohio, near the county line of Mason, Doddridge and Putnam counties.

Johnson said he saw something with eyes like "red fire" in a meadow near his home. He said he saw it about 30 minutes before the Point Pleasant sightings.

Partridge said his television set began acting up, "sounding like a generator," and his \$350 German shepherd,

4 More Say They Saw Red-Eyed 'Whatever'

Pacific States Express

20 NOV. 65

Richard

Long

Partridge started "crying on something" after the dog had howled for some time. Partridge said he opened the door and about a flashlight into the field where the "reflector" were seen.

The dog's hair stood straight up, after the reflection. Partridge said he had never stayed away from home for more than 15 minutes in the last three years.

Still More UFO's Seen In Point Pleasant Sky

POINT PLEASANT — Unidentified flying objects were spotted over Point Pleasant again Thursday night.

At about 7:40 p. m., Mr. and Mrs. Scotty Soladean, Henderson, and others who saw the object Wednesday night reported

seeing a bright light go over Point Pleasant again. It made no sound, they said.

Soladean said that fire appeared to fall from the object just before it disappeared Wednesday night. He said that it was a strange looking light and that it hung very still in the sky. If it had been an airplane he could have heard it, he said.

J. A. (Andy) Wilson, director of Civil Defense; George Carson, also working with Civil Defense; Robert Spears, Mount Vernon Ave., of the National Guard, and Don Nott said that they saw the UFO from the top of the courthouse at about 10 p. m. They said it had a bright light and that it came from the direction of the Methodist Church.

Charles Fry, also with the National Guard, and numerous others reported seeing the UFO Thursday night.

It's Saucers On Parade...

Reports apparently confirming recent sightings of unidentified flying objects in the Tri-State Area continued to mount Friday.

Scores of persons have now said they have seen strange objects in the sky which defy description except in the "flying saucer" category.

Another UFO

An unidentified flying object with brilliant white lights which later changed to red over Huntington was sighted about 9 p. m. Thursday. One observer telephoned Tri-State Airport and was told there were no aircraft in the area.

Several UFO's Spotted Over Holiday Weekend

POINT PLEASANT — The area. UFO's were out in many areas Monday night as they have been for several nights.

Monday night at 10 p. m. a bright light rose from a low position in the north section of Point Pleasant, then made a circle southeast. The light met with another UFO that made the same circle as the first one, only in the opposite direction. At times the big light would be very bright, then it would fade away and at times go completely out all at once.

In the Mason area it was reported that people said this red object looked like a big ball of fire and that it turned to a white light that was also bright before it disappeared.

In Hartford, residents say that for several nights similar objects have been very low in that

In other areas people have seen these strange lights and reported that their cars would almost stall and the lights get very dim on the car while the object was near.

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Anytime, Anywhere, Anyhow

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FOR ALL SHOWS

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UFO Seen Here Late Wednesday

An unidentified flying object passed over downtown Point Pleasant late Wednesday evening, witnesses reported, and tied up traffic in the Sixth Street area as motorists stopped their cars to watch.

The UFO was sighted by a number of persons including around 30 people including the Church of Christ in Christian Union following a service.

One witness said the object glowed brightly and appeared to be circular in shape. It was last seen heading past Central School.

Bright UFO Resembles Stove Pipe

POINT PLEASANT — UFO sightings were reported in several areas again last night with one of the brightest lights ever witnessed.

There were two in most areas where it was reported to be. One was very bright and very large. Some reported that it looked as if it had an object resembling a stove pipe at the top. The other UFO was bright orange encircled in black.

Both traveled northwest and was seen between 9 p. m. and 3 a. m.

DANCE SATURDAY
POMEROY — Pomero High School will sponsor a high school

WVU Professor Says 'Bird' May Be Huge Crane

Everybody's getting into the act!

But the latest speculation on Mason County's famous "bird" comes from one who might know.

Dr. Robert Smith of the West Virginia University biology department told the Mason County Sheriff's Office this morning that the "bird" fits the description of a Sand Hill Crane.

He said the bird is native to the Midwest and also noted that it probably wouldn't stay in one place too long.

The crane described by Dr. Smith, who is sending a sketch, stands six or seven feet tall, has about an 80-inch wing span and has patches of red around its eyes. He said the eyes would be about six inches apart.

Dr. Smith said the crane would attack and possibly kill a dog but would not consume it. He also said the crane would attack people only if it becomes cornered or is wounded.

The professor talked to the Sheriff's Office about 10 minutes from Morgantown and said the University is interested in seeing the bird if it is killed or caught.

Deputy Millard Halstead said Dr. Smith told him he is interested in and is studying such birds.

Meanwhile, another possible sighting of the eyes of the bird was reported by Mary Hyre and a friend, who were scouting the TNT area where the creature was first seen Tuesday night.

Police said some 200 cars were in the area last night as citizens joined the search.

At the same time, reports of other people seeing the "bird" in recent months began to stream in.

One man would not identify himself because "people think those who see this thing are crazy."

He told The Register the "thing" appeared in his yard Tuesday night about 11:30. He said his dog started barking and the man went out and saw the bird rise and move southwesterly.

He said it was "cigar-shaped" and made a noise and "sounded like a Washington time signal. It seemed to have a motor or hum or move something like 15,000 to 18,000 rpm."

The man said his dog apparently was attacked. It had blood on it.

The bird was first sighted by two Point Pleasant couples Tuesday night.

A boy in Cheshire, O., also reported seeing the bird along Ohio Route 7.

Also, a Kanawha County gravedigger said he saw a "brown man" fly past him last week. Kenneth Duncan of Blue Creek near Charleston said he and some other men were digging his brother-in-law's grave on Saturday, when something that "looked like a brown human being" buzzed past.

"It was gliding through the trees and was in sight for about a minute," Duncan said. Four other men helping to dig the grave didn't see it.

Reports are still coming in but as yet the "bird" has not been captured. The incident is causing a lot of speculation.



Sandhill Crane: IFQ (Identified Flying Object)?

That Mothman: Would You Believe A Sandhill Crane?

By RALPH TURNER

The case of the Mason County monster may have been solved Friday by a West Virginia University professor.

Dr. Robert L. Smith, associate professor of wildlife biology in WVU's division of forestry, told Mason Sheriff George Johnson at Point Pleasant he believes the "thing" which has been frightening people in the Point Pleasant area since Tuesday is a large bird which stopped off while migrating south.

"From all the descriptions I have read about this 'thing' it perfectly matches the sandhill crane," said the professor. "I definitely believe that's what these people are seeing."

Since Tuesday more than 10 people have spotted what they described as a "birdman" or "mitchman" in the area of the McClintock Wildlife Station.

They described it as a huge gray-winged creature with large red eyes.

Dr. Smith said the sandhill crane stands an average of five feet and has gray plumage. A feature of its appearance is a bright red flesh area around each eye. It has an average wing spread of about seven feet.

Like it before could easily get the impression it is a flying man," he said. "Car lights would cause the bare skin to reflect as big red circles around the eyes."

While such birds are rare to this area, Dr. Smith said this is migration time and it would not be too difficult for one or more of the birds to stop off at the wildlife refuge. There are no official sightings of such birds in West Virginia, although there have been unconfirmed reports in the past, he added.

The birds are rarely seen east of the Mississippi now except in Florida. Distribution mainly is in Canada and the population is increasing in the Midwest. They winter in Southern California, in Mexico and along the Gulf Coast.

According to one book, the sandhill crane is a "fit successor" to the great whooping crane which is almost extinct. The book states that the height of the male when it stands erect is nearly that of a man of average stature, while the bird's great wings carry its compact and muscular body with perfect ease at a high speed.

Dr. Smith said that while the birds are powerful fliers they cannot match the 110 m.p.h. speed one couple reported the "thing" (See STORY, Page 11)

nia to New England, but it disappeared from eastern United States many years ago. It is now essentially a bird of mid-western and western North America, where it feeds on low wet ground and marshes where it nests.

The sandhill crane breeds from Siberia, Alaska and northern Canada south to Florida, U.S.A., southern Mississippi, Nebraska, Arizona and northern California. It winters in southern Georgia, the Gulf Coast and California south to southern Mexico and Cuba.

This bird has been known to nest as far east as Ohio. There are several records of migrants in 4000 ft. from Pennsylvania. The bird was sighted some years ago in West Virginia, but there is no official record since the bird was never collected. The bird at McClellan Wildlife Station is probably a migrant that has strayed somewhat off course.

A great deal of misinformation has circulated about the rarity of the bird. It is a rare bird in West Virginia, but as species the sandhill crane is in no immediate danger of extinction. Several races the Florida sandhill crane, the Cuban sandhill crane and the migratory greeter sandhill crane are greatly reduced in numbers; but a fourth race, the lesser sandhill, is relatively abundant. In fact in southern Canada and in the Dakotas, as well as in New Mexico and Texas, sandhill cranes have caused serious crop damage. Sandhill crane counts in southern New Mexico and Texas alone yielded around 150,000 birds in 1960. That year the Fish and Wildlife Service held an experimental hunting season on the crane, highly esteemed as a game and table bird.

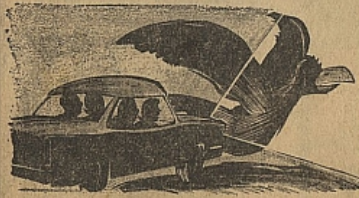
Somewhere along the way, the sandhill crane became confused with the whooping crane, the rare white-colored species of which some 45, not 30, individuals still live in the wild.

The food of the sandhill crane is chiefly vegetable matter: roots, tubers, grain, grass and seeds. It is fond of corn, sorghum, potatoes and alfalfa. The cranes will also take mice, crayfish, frogs and insects at opportune times.

In the past week the crane seems to have acquired a reputation as a dog killer. Undoubtedly the bird with its long sharp bill is capable of inflicting injury on if not actually killing a dog. But this does not mean that the bird did kill a dog and it certainly couldn't carry the animal anywhere. The only conditions under which the crane would attack dog or man are when the bird is wounded or held at bay. Then it can be dangerous. In recent years no stories along this line have circulated. But Audubon and Edward Forbush both relate incidents of being pursued by wounded birds.

The experience of the past two weeks is an example of how sighting of an unfamiliar animal seen under unusual circumstances can soon be blown out of all proportion to the actual situation. It also points out how some of our most mysterious observations have rather simple explanations."

Couples Say They Saw 6-Ft. 100-mph 'Bird'



POINT PLEASANT, W. Va. —UPI— Two Point Pleasant couples told police yesterday their car was followed about midnight by a "bird-like creature" six or seven feet tall with red eyes and a 10-foot wingspan.

Steve Mallette and Roger Scarberry told Mason County sheriff's deputies they were riding with their wives near the McClintic Wildlife Reserve when they first encountered "the thing."

Sheriff Deputy Millard Holstead, investigating the report, said he was not discounting the story. He emphasized that none of the four had been drinking.

Mallette said it was large, measuring as much as seven feet, was grey in color and its eyes were two inches in diameter. He said the eyes "glowed red" when the car headlights were put on them near the abandoned power plant.

Then, Mallette said, the "thing" took off, making a flapping noise, and traveled at high speeds, "at about 100 mph," Mallette added. "It was a clumsy runner."

"I'M A HARD GUY to scare," Scarberry told newsmen, "but I was for getting out of there."

"If I'd seen it myself, I wouldn't have said anything about it, but there were four of us who saw it," Scarberry said.

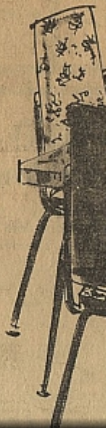
After the first sighting, the men said, the "thing" glided along above the car until their car reached West Virginia Rt. 62. Then it disappeared.

THE FOUR DROVE to downtown Point Pleasant. "When we turned around there it was again. It seemed to be waiting on us," Mallette said.

They went to the city limits and saw the creature again. When the car headlights were put on it, it scurried into a field and disappeared.



SA



Cheshire People Tell Of Strange Sightings

By MARY HYRE

Point Pleasant Correspondent
CHESHIRE — Strange objects have been seen in the Cheshire area during the past several weeks, but witnesses have been reluctant to talk about the sightings. Sunday night, however, several revealed their stories.

Mrs. Roy Grose, Cheshire, said that she was awakened by the barking of her dog at 4:45 a.m., Nov. 17. She got up to see what was wrong.

The moon was shining very brightly that night, she said, and when she looked out the kitchen window, she saw a bright-colored circular object on the other side of Route 7.

The saucer-shaped object, Mrs. Grose went on, was the size of a small house with what looked like sections or compartments of blue and red windows.

The object was over an open field at about housetop level, she said, and its brilliant lights were visible for about 30 or 40 seconds before it zigzagged and

suddenly disappeared.

As she was watching the object, Mrs. Grose said that she was afraid to call the rest of the family because it might have left by the time they got back to the window. In describing her feelings of that morning, the housewife and piano teacher said only, "I was stunned."

On the other side of town, Charles Hern, an employee at the Kyger Creek Power Plant, took his dog out for a walk along the Ohio River at about 6:30 a.m. last Thursday morning.

He noticed a red light across the river. At first he thought it was only a trapper in a boat checking his muskrat traps, but, as he looked he realized that it was something he had never seen before, he said.

He called his wife, and together they saw that the light was on the shore. It appeared, they said, that little people were going to and from the object.

Mrs. Hern said that they were

so stunned and dazzled that they decided to call their neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Taylor.

Mrs. Taylor, a school teacher, was the first to come outside, and she, too, saw the red and orange lights shining from the object by the river. She said that one of the lights was directed toward the water part of the time. Taylor, who arrived at the scene soon after his wife, collaborated with the other witnesses.

Although the others went back inside, Mrs. Hern remained outside for awhile. The lights went out she said, and then lights of another color appeared. Then, she said, the object went straight up and vanished.

Hern said, "I've lived on this river bank since I was 12 years old and I know every boat light, but this definitely was something I've never seen before."

A high school student reportedly saw an object of a similar description south of there at

about 5 a.m. that same morning.

A George Creek woman reported that she was traveling along George Creek Road at about 7 p.m. Friday evening with her four children when they saw a redish orange metallic object just above a utility pole. It was the size of a helicopter, she said, adding that it definitely was not one.

She said that it moved along the highway in front of the car for about a mile, disappearing as it approached the brighter lights of the power transformers.

The sightings were near the area where a large bird-like creature has been reported in recent weeks.

John A. Keel, a magazine writer from New York City, has been in the area since Wednesday collecting material on both the UFO and creature sightings. He said that the sightings are similar to others throughout the United States.

Dunbar Man Says He Stood Beside UFO; 'Round Like Ball'

CHARLESTON (AP) — An appliance store owner at nearby Dunbar reported he stood within 10 feet of an unidentified flying object Thursday and described it as "completely round like a ball."

Tad Jones said he drove up to the strange object on Interstate 64, about six miles from downtown Charleston in mid-morning.

"I sighted this object quite a distance from the road and thought it must be State Road Commission equipment," Jones said. "I couldn't drive around it because it was about 20 feet in diameter and blocked the west bound driving lanes."

"I got out of my truck, walked up and looked it over," Jones said. "It was hovering above the roadway about three or four feet. It had four wheels and in the bottom of the ball was a propeller-like apparatus which was revolving noiselessly."

"At the top was a round window with

two antennae," Jones continued. "In the middle of the object was a protruding flange, or seam, which indicated to me that it had been connected together in some way. It was aluminum in color. I looked up at the window but didn't see anyone."

"I stood there a minute and then it gently rose and, without any exhaust, any odor or any noise whatsoever, it went straight up. I watched it for what must have been a minute or a minute-and-a-half until it passed from sight."

"I was amazed. It was sometime before I got back in the truck and went on to work, and quite a bit later before I decided I had better report this to the Guthrie (W. Va.) Air Force Base radar force."

A spokesman at the Guthrie base said radar operators had not detected any unusual object on their radar screens at the time of the reported sighting but that the matter "was being investigated for transmission to higher headquarters."

UFO - watching seems to have reached fever pitch in the past week as cars flock by the score to the TNT and Camp Conley area.

Thursday night, dozens of cars — some apparently carrying families on an outing — were parked in the TNT and along Route 62 near the Pleasant Point Resort. Many persons reported sighting an object with flashing lights traveling over the area around 8:30 p.m.

At the same time, three pilots for the Mason County Civil Defense unit followed what they believed to be the object. Leo Mueller, Carl Sibley and Richard Newell said they followed the "object" to Huntington Tri-State Airport and discovered it was Allegheny Airlines flight 823.

They said the plane makes a daily flight from Washington, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to Huntington and passes over Point Pleasant between 8:10 and 1:50 each evening, when on schedule.

The men said the plane is a twin-engine turbo-prop craft which makes no noticeable sound while in flight.

The plane also has a condenser lighting system on the nose, tail and back sides of both wings, which, they say, would explain the white flashing lights and red rotating beacons spotted by thousands in Mason County. The time of the flight was confirmed by Allegheny officials.

Last night, however, the object sighted here was also seen traveling north away from Huntington.

One former disbeliever who does not wish to be identified said a similar object followed her car while she and a friend were traveling along S and Hill Road Wednesday night at 8:45 p.m. The object seemed to glide along slowly and at times came quite close to the car, she said. She described the object as being round and about seven feet in size. The lights on the object, she noted, were "the most beautiful red and white colors."

After losing sight of the object at Meadowbrook, she said, she drove to her home in Bellemore where she again sighted the object just over some trees near her house.

Robert Wamsley of 400 First Street reports he has been sighting UFOs since December, usually between 8 and 9 p.m., but was most impressed by a sighting which he and about 12 others made Wednesday night over the river in Henderson.

Wamsley said they watched as three objects came together and hovered for a time. The objects split up when a jet plane flew over the area, he said.

'Flying Saucer' Nearly Has Its 'Wings' Clipped

One of the area's unidentified flying objects has been identified — and its "little green man" almost became a "little red-faced man."

A reliable spokesman said he witnessed the object in the sky, along with several others, this week and was almost convinced he had at last seen a UFO.

"I was sure it was an airplane," he said, "but there wasn't any sound."

"It glided over the hilltop (along Route 2 south of Point Pleasant). It had red, white, orange and other colored lights, and had two beams shining down from the bottom of it."

"I watched and it disappeared over the hill, but then I saw it return."

"But this time it got too close to the hilltop and he had to cut his engines on."

It was, in fact, an airplane and probably one UFO which has frightened many women and children in the vicinity of Route 2.

"He must have had every light, even the cabin lights, in the plane on," the spokesman said, "and maybe then some."

A plane gliding along trees also gave the appearance it was disappearing and then reappearing and at times made it look like it was standing still.

The plane and its prankster pilot had been gliding back and forth across the river for several nights.

His noisy flight, however, almost was his last as he almost clipped a few trees with his "saucer."

"He who laughs last . . ."

More UFO Sightings Reported

POINT PLEASANT — Sightings of unidentified flying objects, reported by many witnesses over the past several weeks, continued in the Point Pleasant area Friday night.

Several persons reported they saw a round object with bright ray of lights making a circle in the downtown area over Central School.

Other reports were received from the Sandy Heights Addition vicinity between 9:30 and 10 p.m. Witnesses said the object was rotating.

A similar UFO has been spotted in the Huntington area over the past several weeks.

Youths Spot UFO In Sky Over Point

POINT PLEASANT — Two 14-year-old Cleveland youths will remember their Easter vacation in Point Pleasant for a long time. Monday night the young visitors reported seeing an unidentified object in the sky over 39th Street.

Keith Scarberry and Justin Clark said that at 10 p.m. they saw a white object with a tail in the sky. They said they were paralyzed with fright for a few seconds before the object suddenly disappeared.

Scan of the original
MOTHMAN
Sketch



City Getting 'The Bi

By JOHN SAMSELL
Editor of The Register
Like it or not, Point Pleasant
is getting "the bird."

Ever since two young couples
sighted a man-sized creature in
the McClintic Wildlife Area a
Tuesday night, ridicule after

pun after cute remark has been
quoted about "Mason County's
Monster" or "bird."

Nevertheless, it was seen
again last night by several of
the hundreds of curious citizens
scouting the massive area.
And the same description was

given — grey in color, 10-foot
wing span, six feet tall, and
huge red eyes.

The latest to see the "thing"
were Raymond Wamsley, 19,
Cathy Wamsley, 18, Marcella
Bennett, 21, and Ricky Thomas,
18, according to the Mason

County Sheriff's Office.

They told Sheriff George John-
son the "huge bird" was in the
yard of Ralph Thomas whose
home is located northeast of the
White Church Road in the TNT
area.

The sighting this time was

Point, W. Va.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1966

Price 5c

Want It Or Not

About 10 p.m. Wednesday. They
saw the bird-like creature come
around the car and stared at
them and then soared away.
Civil Defense and National
Guardians were patrolling in
the area last night along with
the sheriff and deputies.

Meanwhile, a United Press
International dispatch from Dod-
dridge County reported that
"something with red-reflecting
eyes" was spotted in a meadow
on a farm Tuesday night short-
ly before the owner's expensive
German Shepherd dog was lost.

Newell Patridge, a building
contractor, was quoted as say-
ing the three-year-old Shepher-
d "Bandit" went into the dark-
ness after the "thing" and has
never returned.
This story ties in with one
given yesterday morning by

Roger Scarberry and Steve Mal-
lette of Point Pleasant.
They said a huge dog was
seen lying beside Route 62
when they were first fleeing
from the "creature," and then
when they returned, the dog
was gone. SEE STORY NO. 2 PAGE 2.

- 2 -

was gone and the bird was
standing near the G.C. Lewis
farm gate.

The "thing," which has been
described by clever writers and
newscasters throughout the
country as a "monster moth,"
"red-eyed demon" and "bird-
man," was spotted near here
about 80 minutes after the Dod-
dridge County dog disappeared.

Patridge said his flashlight
picked up "two red reflections"
in his meadow and at this the
dog's hair stood up, he bared
his teeth and rushed into the
woods.

Doddridge County is approxi-
mately 60 miles from here —
as the "bird" flies. And the lo-
cal couples said the creature
they saw traveled about 100
miles an hour.

Officials at McClintic today
wouldn't hazard a guess at
what the bird might be. But
many others would.

Sheriff Johnson said the
youths had "seen something"
unusual to scare them. He the-
orized it may have been an
"oversized Shitepoke, possi-
bly a freak of nature." (This
bird is also known as a "Shag-
poke" and actually is a large
bird with spindly legs, long
wing spread, web-feet and lives
around water, and makes a
"raucous noise," they say.)

The bird mentioned above is
sometimes referred to as a
green heron and it roosts in
day and feeds at night.

Another theory is that a
South American vulture which
has been seen as far north, as
Canada. And, reportedly, of
flight path (pre-arranged, of
course) is through this area.
Other observers feel it might
be a Canadian goose, since
many have gathered at McClin-
tic ponds on their way south.

Nevertheless, there is some-
thing out there, and the curi-
osity won't cease until it's
found — if ever.

UPI Reporter Robert M. Gor-
nell was here last evening to
get the story and his dispatch
is being carried to distant
points. In it he told of seeing
"oval-shaped footprints measur-
ing about 4 1/2 inches across and
fresh animal droppings none of
the natives in the party could
identify."

He asked the question: Is
there a "Mason County Mon-
ster?"

While the "bird" is the talk
of the town at the moment, the
incident also is bringing promi-
nence to the city.

One citizen exclaimed: "After
all, it's a bird sanctuary!" An
Mayor D. B. Morgan was cited

as the "instigator" for having
signed a proclamation recently
for the sanctuary.

While cars jammed the TNT
area last night, it was notice-
able that the Audubon Society
was missing the boat. No one
was handing out membership
applications.

Object Seen Near Charleston

Dunbar Man Alleges He Examined UFO

CHARLESTON — An appliance store owner at nearby Dunbar reported that he stood within 10 feet of an unidentified flying object and described it as "completely round like a ball."

Tad Jones said he drove up to the strange object on Interstate 64, about six miles from downtown Charleston in midmorning.

"I sighted this object quite a distance from the road and thought it must be state road commission equipment," Jones said. "I couldn't drive around it because it was about 20 feet in diameter and blocked the westbound driving lanes."

"I got out of my truck, walked up and looked it over," Jones said. "It was hovering above the roadway about three or four

feet. It had four wheels and in the bottom of the ball was a propeller-like apparatus which was revolving noiselessly."

"At the top was a round window with two antennae," Jones continued. "In the middle of the object was a protruding flange, or seam, which indicated to me that it had been connected together in some way. It was aluminum in color. I looked up at the window but didn't see any one."

"I stood there a minute and then it gently rose and—without any exhaust, any odor or any noise whatsoever, it went straight up. I watched it for what must have been a minute or a minute and-a-half until it passed from sight."

"I was amazed. It was sometime before I got back in the truck and went on to work, and quite a bit later before I decided I had better report this to the Guthrie, W. Va. Air Force Base radar force."

A spokesman at the Guthrie base said radar operators had not detected any unusual object on their radar screens at the time of the reported sighting but that the matter "was being investigated for transmission to higher headquarters."

Five Day Forecast

Temperatures Saturday through Wednesday will average above normal with daily highs ranging from the upper 30s to the upper 40s while nighttime lows will be in the mid-20s and lower 30s. Warming trend of period but change to colder by middle of next week.

Alleged Students Find

THE MESSENGER, Athens, Ohio — Tuesday, April 18, 1967 — Page 5

UFOs Out In Force Across Mason Skies

POINT PLEASANT — Unidentified flying objects were out in force Monday night, residents of Mason County reported.

The TNT area was visited by Bill Roush and several others.

Roush said a UFO came within 150 feet of them. The "strange light" was about 100 feet above the group, he added.

Mr. and Mrs. James Lilly of Camp Conley reported that eight UFOs were spotted in that area. They have seen UFOs nightly for three weeks.

Another man said he and his sister watched a UFO appear between Point Pleasant and Henderson about 9:30 p.m., travel "very low" across the sky in a northwesterly direction. It was visible for 30 minutes.

Several residents of New Haven have seen UFOs, with witnesses describing different colored lights and brilliance.

All report the absence of sound.

A Huntington newspaper today published a time exposure photograph of a sighting in the Camp Conley area Sunday night. The accompanying story notes that, while the objects could be an elaborate hoax of some sort, competent observers say the "thing" is not a satellite nor is it an aircraft.

TNT Area Again Scene Of Sighting

POINT PLEASANT — A traffic cop will be needed in the Camp Conley area if UFOs continue to pass over that area. It was reported that last night the area was packed full of cars. The TNT area is also a site where hundreds of people are going nightly to look for UFOs.

One was seen again last night. A unidentified plane was nearby and as it started toward the area ground observers said the UFO disappeared.

The TNT area last night looked like the traffic flow when the "monster" was seen in that area last November.

Page T6 — THE MESSENGER, Athens, Ohio — Friday, April 21, 1967

UFO Mystery Solved? Many Say No

POINT PLEASANT — Three Mason County Civil Defense unit members say they have solved the mysterious UFO sightings reported in the Point Pleasant area in recent weeks, but their claim is disputed by many area residents.

The three, Richard Newell, Carl Sibley and Lou Mueller

concluded that the sightings had resulted from lights on the front, wings and rear of a commercial airliner. The trio took a plane flight around the area Thursday night.

They point out that Allegheny Airlines flight 823 makes daily trips into Huntington from eastern cities and a return flight in

the evening, noting that sightings were made between 8:10 and 8:50 p.m.

Those who dispute the claim say that the trio's explanation might cover some of the sightings, but they are quick to point out that sightings have also been made later in the evening — around midnight. The ques-

tion has also been raised about the likelihood of a plane coming right at a car in the manner that the strange lights have been reported.

Recent reports have also indicated that objects have been sighted in formations, with as many as five to eight objects at one time.

Huntington Paper - Nov. 3-67
Half A Dozen Sightings Here

New UFO's Reported

By RON HITE

More than a half dozen reports were received Thursday night of a group of unidentified flying objects which were seen during the past two days in the Huntington area.

Most of the sightings were made in the area of Interstate 64 near Milton.

A Milton woman said she and a relative were driving from Milton toward the Blenko Glass plant on James River Turnpike when they saw a lighted object in the sky which was slowly blinking.

The woman, who wished to remain unidentified, said the object appeared to have at least three lights on it and was hovering low in the sky. She noted the time as about 8:30 p. m.

The woman said upon reaching her home, she saw the lighted object, which she said was yellow in color, suddenly sail across the sky and pass directly overhead.

The woman and her relative said they could distinguish the object for about five to seven minutes.

An almost identical report was also received from a resident of Barboursville who said he was driving along I-64 about 8:30 p. m. when he noticed a brightly lit object in the night sky.

The man said he pulled his auto to the side of the I-64 stretch of highway near Milton to get a better view of the object.

"As I was watching the first object, a second object came into view from the opposite direction. The second object darted behind a cloud and a cluster of three dull red lights came from the cloud."

"At first it appeared that a jet might be refueling in midair, but I suddenly realized it was traveling too fast to be a jet," the man said.

The group of three lights then joined the first white light and all passed from sight within a few seconds he said.

A 13-year-old Hupco news carrier and his friend called The Herald-Dispatch and said they had witnessed a group of reddish-green lights hovering in the sky near Linden Circle Thursday about 7:45 p. m.

Also Wednesday night, a color television at the home of Locust St. family here suddenly went awry and the "colors were all scrambled and finally the screen went black." The resident said

upon going outside to investigate the cause of the trouble, an unidentified object was seen passing through the sky. A neighbor said their television had blacked out at about the same time.

A Kenova man said his children said they saw a strange object in the sky. The sighting was made near Hamlin about 7:30 p. m.

A young Milton woman also said she saw an object about the size of a "small helicopter" hovering over her auto while driving along U. S. Rt. 60. The time of the reported sighting was about 9:30 p. m. Wednesday.

Page 10 — THE MESSENGER, Athens, Ohio — Wed., April 5, 1967

Now It's Big Firefly In Point Pleasant Sky

POINT PLEASANT — Point Pleasant's famous "moth man" seems to have been replaced by a giant firefly. For the past week several persons in the area have reported seeing strange flickering lights in the skies.

Several witnesses reported seeing the object Tuesday night as it passed slowly over Point Pleasant at an estimated 5,000 feet. It took one hour to travel approximately two miles, witnesses said.

It appeared to descend south of Henderson, disappearing in the area of the Cornstalk Hunting Grounds.

Charles Litchfield and his wife said they saw the object rising over Henderson. It was not an airplane, they said, and it made no sound.

A few minutes later, Mrs.

Mary McCoy, Henderson, along with several other persons, observed the same object as a similar one moving west over Gallipolis Ferry.

A light plane also passed over this area at about the same time, but its lights were clearly different from those of the UFO.

Letters from John Keel



John A. Keel

210 EAST 100th STREET
NEW YORK 14, NEW YORK
PHONE 4-2714

Dec. 20, 1966

Dear Everyone:

I have been very rushed since I returned to NYC Sat. night but I want to thank you for your many kindnesses during my visit to Pt. Pleasant ...I could never have accomplished anything without your help. I wish I could have stayed longer and been more effective in the situation.

The trip back to Washington was rather miserable. I ran into a bad snowstorm outside of Elkins and had to stay over there. Finally had to break down and buy a set of chains for the car.

I tried to interest the Pentagon in the Pt. Pleasant situation but they seemed quite unconcerned. Since no-one had officially complained to them about it, they chose to ignore it. Incidentally, there is a UFO flap in Maryland at the moment...and the UFOs seem to have singled out specific people and are returning again and again.

After leaving Pt. Pleasant I thought of hundreds of things I should have checked. Perhaps later on I will send you a list of questions that you might be able to answer. Mary dropped me a Xmas card and enclosed a note saying you were going to send me some clippings. I'm looking forward to getting them.

Here is a copy of one of my newspaper stories. I have sent you a small package...something that might be useful to you.

Again, thanks for everything. I will keep in touch with you and let you know what I'm up to here.

Best...

John A. Keel

---John A. Keel

John A. Keel

220 EAST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK 10, NEW YORK
WALTON 2-1100

February 14, 1967

Dear everyone:

I have been quite busy chasing UFOs here in the northeast but here are a couple of copies of the write-up which appeared recently in the bulletin of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization in Tucson, Ariz. It is based upon clippings which I sent to them. I haven't had a chance to complete my lengthy report on the situation. The UFOs have been active all up and down the Ohio valley and are now very busy around Cairo, Ill. where the Ohio R. joins the Mississippi. Apparently they have been following the courses of our major rivers this past year.

Mrs. Hyre has written to me a couple of times and she passed along the terrible news of Brenda's husband's injuries in Viet Nam. I'm sorry and hope that he is recovering all right.

Connie and Kieth must be married now. I planned to send them a telegram but could not get through to Western Union...their blankety-blank phone is always busy. Anyway, give them my best when you see them.

Some of the editors at TRUE are very skeptical of the MOTHMAN and are presently debating the whole matter. But I think the story will go through and should be in print sometime this summer. I will send you a carbon copy of the final version, along with all the clips, etc. that I have collected. Perhaps Mary has shown you some of the material I have been sending her. Mothman was seen further south last Sept. before he decided to settle in Pt. Pleasant.

Again, I was very sorry to hear about Brenda's husband.

Drop me a note when you have the time and let me know what is happening.

Best... *John A. Keel*
---John A. Keel

Mr. & Mrs. Park McDaniel
512 34th St.
Point Pleasant, W. Va. 2550

AIR MAIL



John A. Keel

Box 384
P. O. Murray Hill Station
New York, N. Y. 10024

NO POSTAGE
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IF MAILED
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UNITED STATES

Sept. 24, 1968

Dear Parke and Mabel;

Thanks for the two letters and the clipping. The fall "flap" is well underway. The reports are coming in from all over. Thus far nothing really serious has happened but our funny friends are sure kicking up a fuss. Haven't heard from Mary since Gray's "convention". That turned out as I expected. Moseley and his friends came back to NYC convinced that it was all "mass hysteria" inspired by Mary's newspaper accounts. They admitted they didn't talk to anybody except Millard Halstead and a bus boy at the Resort. Mary apparently told them about some of the things her relatives had seen and they (Tim Beckeley and Moseley) told me they suspected Mary was making it all up or something. I do wish she had heeded my advice and been more cautious around those characters.

Some months back I was told to expect a visit from a man carrying a bible. This may have been the odd fellow who appeared around Mary's office. I kid you not when I say that "they" are trying to lure me back to W. Va. again. I suppose they would love to get their hands on me...after all the stuff I've been writing.

An exceptionally tall "proowler" is also busy in New York state. Has bushy hair and a strange laugh. He's been popping up around isolated farms. There have been a rash of mysterious fires in the area, animals disappearing, etc. All the farmers are scared to death. Canada has also been having a big flap and there have been some very strange incidents up there. Whoever they are, wherever they're from, they are now here in large numbers and only a handful of us are trying to cope with this wild situation.

I don't think Linda and Roger will have any problems in Cleveland but let me know if they do. Perhaps we can expect something a bit more spectacular than usual...designed to get me scurrying back down there.

I have finished moving and am now trying to unpack and sort out ~~of~~ all of my junk, papers, etc. It has been a very big job and has taken up most of my time this month.

Hope you are all okay. The invisible characters are playful but harmless unless you smell a very strong odor of some kind. Don't let 'em upset you. They feed on fear. If you panic, they get much worse. If you have a very strong feeling that someone is around...try talking to them. Tell them very firmly that you know they are there and you wish they would go away. (I know this sounds insane so please don't repeat it to "outsiders". They'll think we're all nuts.)

Now there's one more thing I want you to try. The next time you hear a thud against the side of the house, talk to it. Tell "it" to

answer with one thump for "YES" and two x thumps for "NO". Then ask it questions such as : "Do you know that Dani is gone?" "Are we in danger?" etc. Let me know all the details if this should happen. People in other places have been able to do this.

Since "they" have been around Ft. Pleasant for two years now it looks as if they mean to stay. It's time for us to try to communicate with them there if we can. Keep in touch with Mrs. Thomas. It's a good bet that she will eventually be contacted in some direct manner.

Keep me posted and I'll write whenever I can. Maybe I'll try to call Mary again soon.

All the best...

John A. Keel
-john a. keel

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February 4, 1970

Dear Linda and all;

I received your first letter last Saturday and your second one ~~last~~ yesterday. I sent Mary a get-well card and note last week after talking to you. She has probably reviewed it by now.

I won't try to call her just now. It sounds as if she is suffering the classic post-coronary depression and I'm sure her doctors have had experience with this and will be working to pull her around. They're probably keeping her heavily doped up and this adds to her lethargy. In a few days she will snap back to her old self. It is a terrible ~~tragedy to find yourself facing death and uncertainty about life. A~~ call from me at this point might even be detrimental, particularly if she feels some kind of strain...some urge to tell me something. It could trigger another attack. If I call when she is filled with ~~drugs~~, she might not even remember the call anyway and so it would accomplish nothing...and might even do harm.

Mary has been bothered by a lot of cranks and weirdos and she has apparently taken some of them seriously. My own life is threatened by some nut about once a week. If I took them seriously I would have been in the booby hatch long ago. When such threats fail, "they" often take to issuing threats to people who know me. I get mail all the time from people all over the country who are concerned because they have received such threats and warnings. Maybe they've been playing this game with Mary more than you know about.

She is made of stern stuff and if the doctors can keep her put for awhile she will certainly pull through. But I fear her working days might be over and retirement would be very hard for her to take. We can only hope that things are not as bad as they seem right now. When she is feeling a little better I will try to call her.

I hope you haven't set off a wave of rumors in the hospital. Rumors that will soon spread all over Ohio and W. Va. There are a lot of screwballs who think that Mary and I invented the whole Mothman thing just to have something to write about!

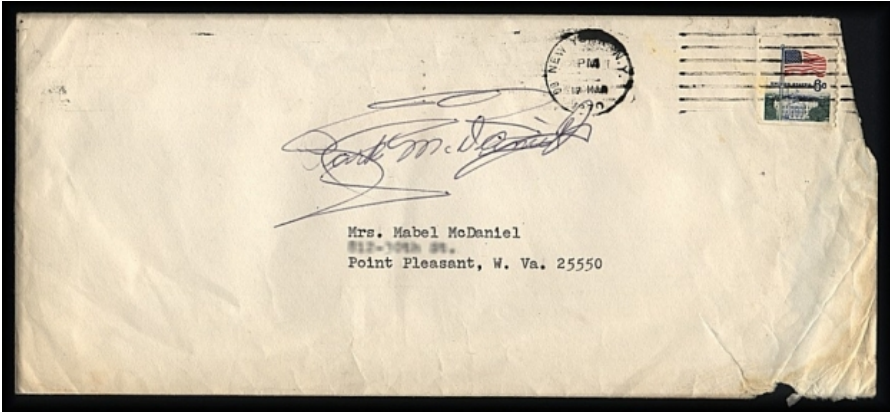
Recently Dr. Jacques Vallee published a book titled "Passport to Magonia" and he mentioned Mabel in it. I will try to make and enclose a photostat copy of that page.

My two forthcoming books will deal at length with Mothman and the UFO sightings around Point Pleasant. One will be out in April in paperback and will probably be on sale in Pt. Pleasant. The other will be a hardcover and will appear in June. Gray Barker has written a book called "The Silver Bridge" and it should be out soon. Probably filled with a lot of crap but who knows?

There isn't much chance that I will be able to get down to W. Va. in the near future. I seem to be having troubles from every quarter. Hope you are all well. Please keep me informed of Mary's progress.

Best...

John A. Keel
-john a. keel



Mrs. Mabel McDaniel
812-10th St.
Point Pleasant, W. Va. 25550

Feb. 20, 1970

Dear Mabel, Parke, Linda and all;

I have been frantically trying to call W. Va. all week without success. I can get nothing but a busy signal at your number. I also tried to call Mary's house and office and got no answer at all.

Dan came by on Monday to tell me the terrible news. I have not even been able to reach him by phone since then.

It seems as if I spent hours in pay phones this week, cursing Alexander Graham Bell and all his descendents. The phone situation here is really ridiculous. When I first tried to call you on Monday night I could not even get a line through to W. Va.!

Even though things are very tight for me financially at the moment I wanted to somehow get down to Point Pleasant for the funeral. But I couldn't reach anyone to find out when the funeral was going to take place.

When you get a chance I hope you will be able to write and send me all the details, clippings, etc. Frankly, I expected Mary to pull through this so I was doubly shocked when Dan came by. I wish there was something I could have done. I feel so helpless and frustrated sitting here without a phone, quite cut off from everything.

I will keep trying to call you and maybe I will reach you before you get this letter. I tried to call you again a few minutes ago. Maybe somebody somewhere doesn't want me to return to W. Va.

Unhappily;

J.A.K.
-John A. Keel

March 15, 1970

Dear Mabel, Linda and Parke;

Several people in the Ohio valley have written to me to tell me about Mary. I wish I could have gotten to Point Pleasant for the funeral but it simply wasn't possible and everything seemed to work to interfere. I still can't quite believe she is gone. We had a lot of strange experiences together which we never told anyone about. But she never pried or asked questions. She just listened quietly. When she was in New York last spring she seemed pale and a little dispirited. I urged her to go into semi-retirement but I knew she wouldn't.

Now my two books are finished and will be out soon. Both of them mention Mary and describe some of the events in Pt. Pleasant. I will try to send you copies as soon as they are available. When the books come out you are apt to be bothered by a new collection of weirdos, cranks and teen-aged UFO buffs. But W. Va.'s ~~ix~~ Mothman is now a part of history, like the Flatwoods monster of 1952. In time it will become a folk legend.

The collapse of the Silver Bridge also had special meaning to me. You will be surprised when you read about it in my book, OPERATION TROJAN HORSE. There was so much going in Pt. Pleasant that no-one knew about...except Mary and myself.

I hope you are all well and that things are going all right for you. I owe Ake Fransen a letter and will try to write to him this week. Do you hear from him regularly?

All the best... *John*

-John A. Keel

The two flyers below were included as nostalgic curiosities of author John A. Keel.

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A COMPREHENSIVE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MONSTERS

**Strange Creatures From
Time And Space**

BY JOHN A. KEEL T2219 75c

Around the world, year after year, ordinary, sensible people see things and experience things that the run-of-the-mill scientists will not acknowledge as possible.

That doesn't stop the strange creatures from reappearing again and again — to be seen, to affect those who see them, to threaten, to attack, and, in some cases, to harm.

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**Strange
Creatures From
Time And Space**

BY JOHN A. KEEL



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AND OF THE OCCULT WILL WANT TO READ THIS BOOK

John A. Keel is a man who has been science editor for Funk and Wagnall's encyclopedias, a documentary film producer in the UFO field, author of *Playboy's* "definitive article" on UFOs as well as of countless other articles on the subject, an Abominable Snowman tracker in the Himalayas and, for the past four years, a relentless, traveling investigator of monster sightings and similar phenomena all over the United States.

Scheduled for release in APRIL 1970.

Should be available in your local paperback book outlet.

UFOs: OPERATION TROJAN HORSE

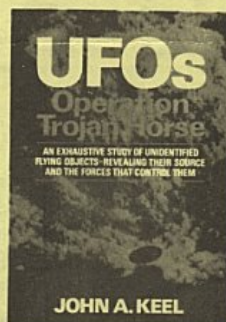
by John A. Keel

A probing, in-depth examination of unidentified flying objects—with a startling new explanation of their mysterious source and the strange forces that control them.

John A. Keel, "Ufologist of the Year" for 1967, has won renown as one of the world's leading and most quoted "flying saucer" authorities. His syndicated feature articles on unidentified flying objects have appeared in more than 150 newspapers in the United States and abroad. Now, at last, he has written the long-overdue comprehensive and definitive book that reveals UFOs as the Trojan horse of our time.

Somewhere between the extreme alarmists' warning of long-haired Venusians, three-foot-tall Martians, and a score of other peculiar beings from even more remote planets and galaxies and the official government position, which strives to discount the myriad sightings of unidentified flying objects as mass hysteria and nonsense, lies the truth about UFOs. In his search for the facts, John Keel has interviewed thousands of witnesses across America and sifted through countless accounts of sightings. He has made several surprising discoveries: that patterns of modern sightings can be traced as far back as 1896, years before the first "flying saucer scare" of 1947; that the UFO phenomenon is fraught with deliberate deception; and most surprising of all, that *UFOs are not outer-space or extraterrestrial objects, but rather exist in our own environment on a different space-time continuum.*

A startling explanation of an alarming and dangerous phenomenon: UFOs!



Mr. Keel demonstrates logically and convincingly that the problem is not whether UFOs exist, but *why* these mysterious objects have persisted as a remote part of the earthly environment throughout history. Using conventional methods of journalistic objectivity and in-depth investigation and research, he provides intelligent answers to a most unconventional problem. His is a sober voice, a Cassandra warning of a possible grave danger to our world today. Fascinating and often frightening, *UFOs: OPERATION TROJAN HORSE* is lively reporting on a most controversial subject that will appeal to a vast audience plagued by this centuries-old enigma.

Nonfiction, \$6.95

Scheduled for release in June 1970. Ask your local bookstore to order it for you. Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 200 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016.

Notes Taken by Mabel McDaniel (Linda
Scarberry's Mother) Transcription by Lori
Sergeant

- 1- Historical Sightings
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- 1- Sept. 18th 1877 - Winged human form
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- 2 - 1915 thru 1917 - Witnesses Saw
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- 3 - Oct. 3 - 1917 - "The Miracle of Fatima"...
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- 4 - 1922 - Two witnesses in
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(Cont.)

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-2-

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FROM - MRS. MABEL McDANIEL.

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From - Mrs. Mabel McDaniel.

Parts of a letter received from John A. Keel, N.Y., written 1-2-67

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Here's what to look for in your
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2/ People will tell you that they have seen such substances being discharged by low-flying UFO's. If any of these things do turn up, send me samples if you can.

2- If you get a UFO landing report, measure the holes left in the ground and look for deposits of a jelly-like liquid. Collect this liquid in bottles, using sticks in Chap-stick fashion to pick it up. (It may burn your fingers.) also look for burned foliage and for freshly dug earth. The latter will appear in perfect circles. ~~off~~ If ~~there~~ you dig down a few feet you may find one or more small round metal spheres. If these spheres turn up, ship

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3.- keep on the lookout for stories
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4.- Let me know if any strangers
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- 6.- Watch for "Peeping Tom" reports, particularly if the peeper is described as "a very large man."
- 7.- Pay attention to all far-out stories - for instance: if a woman tells you that she had a dream in which she saw a little man standing in front of the cradle of her baby, find out the date of the "dream" and obtain the Racial background of the family.
- 8.- Try to obtain Doctors' statements concerning persons being physically affected from "sightings".

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dates, names and addresses of witnesses, and a very brief description of the incident. Eventually you will find a pattern developing, even with the wildest stories.

I would like to know what kind of waste chemicals the Pantasote Plant is dumping into the Ohio River and how often they dump chemicals there. This could be an important lead.

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Return to the TNT Area

Photos by Dani Scarberry (Linda Scarberry's Daughter)

David Grabias, producer of documentary films for such notable organizations as National Geographic, The Discovery Channel, The Sci-Fi Channel, and others, contacted us about shooting a documentary segment in the TNT area. He and his company Sinema Productions based in Los Angeles, CA were going to be in town to film a documentary about the Mothman legend for the Sci-Fi Channel, and USA Network. To our understanding, the finished product was to air sometime in January 2002 to generate interest for the upcoming Sony Pictures film, "The Mothman Prophecies", due out February 2002. Later, we found out that the documentary was aired by the FX Channel in a documentary called "The Search for the Mothman". This documentary is now available as bonus footage on a special release of the DVD version of the Sony Pictures film, "The Mothman Prophecies". We are excited about having a part in that production.

On September 12, 2001 Linda Scarberry agreed to ride up the TNT area with us and basically retrace the original route that she and the other three people in the car took on the night of November 15, 1966. It was an interesting and informative trip that answered many of our questions about the first Mothman sighting in the Point Pleasant, WV area. This was a very interesting experience, and we received approval from David to take a few behind-the-scenes pictures of the documentary filming to include in this book for you to enjoy.

We began our trip from the lower end of Point Pleasant, WV and drove North on State Route 62. The documentary film crew followed us as we journeyed toward the TNT area. As we approached the Mason County Fairgrounds, Linda had us turn from the main road onto a gravel road. She began telling us about when she learned how to drag race on a stretch of paved road in the TNT area, along with the more experienced drivers. In 1966, and shortly before, people came from miles around to show off their muscle cars and their driving skills. This of course was not something the local law enforcement was happy about, and many chases occurred as a result. Linda said the racers came from as far as Middleport, Ohio,

Pomeroy, Ohio, Ripley, West Virginia, Ravenswood, West Virginia, and, of course, Point Pleasant, West Virginia. As we approached the long stretch of road that leads to the vacant lot that once housed the TNT power plants, Linda explained how, in 1966, the area was not yet overgrown with hedges and trees as it is today. She told us it was an area that was well-kept and the tall grass and weeds were almost non-existent at that time. The documentary crew began filming at this moment and had her repeat this statement, and continues talking about her experience.

One of the things that sparked our curiosity was the direction in which the two couples drove towards the power plant the night the sighting occurred. Most people are familiar with the most common road leading to the plant that is parallel to what is now the current location for the Mason County Fairgrounds. Linda explained that they drove to the power plant area from the other side of the fairgrounds, from behind the Fairgrounds if you will. After seeing the creature, they exited onto the main road in front of the Fairgrounds.

The power plant was demolished a few years ago and is now a vacant lot protected by a locked chain link gate. As we and the film crew looked into the vacant lot, Linda pointed to the spot where they first caught a glimpse of Mothman, and told us how it quickly darted into the large building. She explained that as they came over the small hill in the road, the first thing that caught her eye was a cable bouncing up and down which was caused by the creature attempting to free itself from the cable near a fence surrounding the power plant. This is where the film crew filmed the bulk of this section of the documentary.

As we drove out of the TNT area, we began to re-trace the direction the couples drove that night after realizing they were being followed by the Mothman. Once we turned back onto State Route 62, Linda pointed to the left of the road. She said a large billboard once stood there and this is where they witnessed the creature fly straight up into the air and then begin to follow the car as they drove toward Point Pleasant at speeds over 100 mph. When we approached what is now the current location of the National Guard Armory, Linda told us that as she looked out the window of their car back in 1966 she could see that the bird-like Mothman was almost gliding through the air. Flapping its wings almost effortlessly as it wove back and forth just above the car. Linda told us the wingspan was so large that the

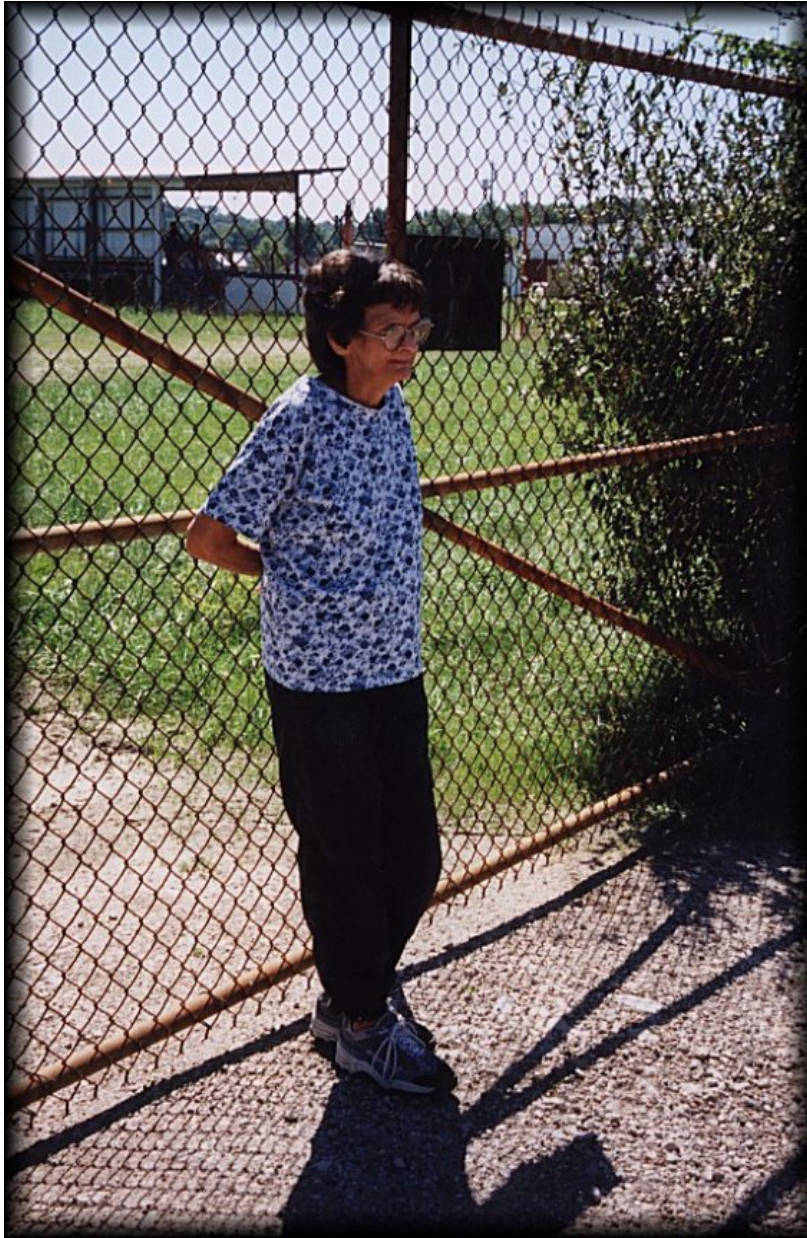
wings were hitting the side of the doors on the car as they sped down the highway. Later that night they discovered the paint scratched away on the side door panels of the black 1957 Chevy.

As we neared Point Pleasant she pointed to where they had seen the large, dead dog laying on the right side of the road on their way up to the TNT area earlier. Upon returning later that November evening, the dog was gone.

We continued our drive back through town while Linda reminisced about the week of the Mothman sightings and how the town of Point Pleasant has changed since those days. She gave us detailed accounts of her experiences of the days following the couple's encounter. These experiences are covered in the "Interview" section of this book.

The TNT trip was very exciting and informative to say the least. It was a step back into history for all involved and served as a firsthand account for all the events that occurred on November 15, 1966.

- Donnie Sergeant Jr & Jeff Wamsley





















Places of Interest in the Point Pleasant, WV Area

More information about the locations below can be found at
www.pointpleasantwv.org

McClintic Wildlife Management Area (Known locally as the "TNT Area")

West Virginia State Farm museum

Tu-Endie-Wei State Park

Krodel Park

Fort Randolph

Additional Resources

The easiest way to keep up with current Mothman happenings is to visit www.mothmanlives.com.

At the time of this book's original release, which was November 2001, there was a movie being made based on John Keel's book "The Mothman Prophecies". The movie was released in the U.S. by Sony Pictures on February 22, 2002 with great success. The movie includes a cast of stars such as Will Patton, Richard Gere, Laura Linney, Debra Messing, Lucinda Jenney, Alan Bates, and many others.

"The Mothman Prophecies" - Book by: John Keel.

The Point Pleasant, West Virginia website: www.pointpleasantwv.org The official website of West Virginia Division of Tourism: www.callwva.com

Extended Edition Bonus Materials

Exclusive John A. Keel Interview

Conducted in 2003 at Point Pleasant, West Virginia

The interview following this short lead-in is transcribed here for the first time in print. It brings forth John Keel the man, not just the paranormal investigator. I hope you enjoy its content as much as I enjoyed spending time with John that day. John was a kind and unique man.

Author John A. Keel paid everyone a visit at the 2nd Annual Mothman Festival on September 13, 2003. The following day, John and I went to breakfast at a local restaurant on Main Street here in Point Pleasant, WV called "Melinda's". We each had a delicious Western Omelet and coffee.

Then, he asked me along to go grocery shopping with him for some items for his trip back to New York City. John's scientific mind works even while he's buying food. After hearing what all that stuff can do to your body, I may only eat bread and drink water for the rest of my life.

Next we went to a local store and bought a few containers in which John could store some of the items he would be taking back home from the festival. John was also looking for a shoe horn, because the shoes he brought were "Not a pleasure to put on." So, I asked the young lady at the store if they carried shoe horns. She replied, "What's a shoe horn?" I felt WAY too old after hearing that. I asked another lady and she said they didn't carry them.

We then went for a stroll around Point Pleasant; John took a few photos of the amazing, new Mothman sculpture, created by local artist Bob Roach.

Finally, we headed back to the Lowe Hotel where John was staying. After relaxing a few minutes, John and I sat down to an interview. John graciously answered several questions people have been asking about him and his works, and then went on to discuss other topics, as well. It was a true pleasure spending time with John. He was a polite, quiet man with little to say... unless he was asked.

For perspective, the following interview was conducted when John was seventy-three and I was thirty-three.

The Interview with John Keel

Donnie Sergeant Jr: “What initially got you involved with researching paranormal phenomena and about what age were you?”

John A. Keel: “Well, when I was a kid, we had a poltergeist on this old farm house we lived in. We lived on a terrible farm. We had an outhouse, which in the middle of the winter, it was great fun to go to an outhouse. We didn’t have electricity, we used kerosene lamps. They hadn’t electrified that section of the country, yet. And, when I look back on it, it was so damn primitive. And, the farmhouse had no insulation, of course. It was an old, wooden frame house. I slept upstairs by myself. And, when I was around twelve years old, something started tapping in the wall. At first of course, being very scientific, I thought it was squirrels in the attic or something. I really checked around the whole building. It wasn’t anything you could find out. And then, I started experimenting. Every night, this knock would come back. And, I would start tapping three times and it would tap back three times. So, that wasn’t a squirrel. Maybe it was the Mothman in there. This went on for some time, several weeks. So, I worked out a primitive code. But, what kind of questions was I going to ask it? Was Hitler going to win the war? So, I was talking with this knock in the wall and my parents didn’t believe me when I told them that there was a knock in the wall up there.

“That drove me to the public library that we had in town, looking for all the books on psychic phenomena. They had about three. And, I read those and slowly developed an interest in it. That’s how I got started with the paranormal.

“Basically, I was always interested in writing jokes. That was my thing. And, I read a lot of humor books. I read the works of Will Rogers, who was the Bob Hope of his day, and many, many other people who are now long forgotten.

“Around the same time, I wrote a letter to the local newspaper. He thought my letter was so funny. It was about a local issue of some sort. I don’t remember what. He wrote to me and asked me to come into his office and see him. And, I went in and he was a young man, then. He had inherited the newspaper. He offered me two dollars a week to write a column. Two dollars a week to a twelve-year-old kid in those days was a big deal. That’s

how I started writing. Some of those columns were really awful; really scraping the keel. I wrote that column for some years. And, you know, it takes a lot of discipline to write a weekly column with the deadlines. And so, I went on from there.

“But, I wasn’t just interested in psychic phenomena, because of the wrapping on the wall. I was convinced there was something weird going on. I was more interested in science in those days. If it would’ve been possible, I would’ve probably gone on to college. I never finished high school. I would’ve gone on to college and taken a science course. You would be calling me ‘Doctor Keel’, now. (Laughs) A lot of people do. They assume. They assume it’s, “Dr. Keel.”

“But, that was the beginning. My humble beginnings. I remember that old, terrible farmhouse. [The] falling down farmhouse. The probably had one hundred and twenty or one hundred and forty acres, which is a pretty sizable farm. Except the land all went up like this and down like this. [John indicated with his hands the steep hills and deep valleys and laughs] It was very hard to farm it. And then we had a lot of woods on the farm.”

Donnie: “Now, where was this? Where was the farm?”

John: “It was in a place called Perry, New York. It was outside of Perry, New York. We were five miles from the nearest town. They paid probably something like one thousand dollars for that farm. Who else would want it? The buildings were all falling down. It had an outhouse. Some of the modern farmhouses had indoor plumbing. It had a well that you had to go outside and pump. Remember those?”

(I actually did remember those and nodded. I remember visiting my grandmother’s house on my mother’s side and seeing the well and the pump John was describing right outside the front door. The well was capped off with a square of concrete about four feet by four feet and had a metal, manual pump mounted on top with which to draw the water up from the well beneath. When I was younger, about five years old, our house had a well in the front yard, also. The difference was that we had an electric pump that drew water from the well and pumped it to the indoor plumbing of the house.)

John: "And, the water was no good. The water was sulfuric. You couldn't stand to smell it, let alone drink it. I suppose if that farm still stands the water is still that rotten. You don't know how we suffered in those days. Well, the depression was going on. World War Two was going on. We didn't realize what straights we were in. Gasoline was like twelve cents a gallon."

Donnie: "After all these years, have you come to any new conclusions about the Mothman sightings in Point Pleasant That weren't evident back in '66 and '67?"

John: "No. I did a lot of research, as you know into psychic phenomena and parapsychology. I couldn't find any kind of an acceptable answer for it. The bird was around here for at least three weeks. And, we had a lot of good witnesses, as you know. So, I was convinced in the beginning that the bird was really a bird and that it existed. And then, after three or four weeks, the sightings stopped just like that. My only theory was maybe this was a huge bird that was nesting in the area and had a nest full of eggs that had hatched and the Mothman was flying around trying to find something to feed its chicks, which is what birds do. You've seen hawks and things in action. And, because this giant bird has turned up in other parts of the world, there still is something to it, but I can't figure out what the hell it is. Because, there are so many professional bird watchers out there with binoculars. They're experts on anything that flies. They're an expert on it. And, none of these people have reported anything close to a Mothman. There are big birds, like condors and things, but these guys know. You can show them a feather from one of these birds and they can identify it. And then, of course, there are a lot of amateurs running around hopefully looking for something like Bigfoot. Bigfoot with wings. [Chuckles]

"Whatever the hell it is, it put a big scare into a lot of people here in Point Pleasant at the time. And now they're divided. They're arguing about it. Some of them say there's no such thing. And the other ones who've seen it are convinced that yeah there's something out there. I'm convinced there's something out there, but it's something we don't know anything about and haven't learned anything about in all these years. We have people who can identify worms and beetles; things like that. But, we don't have any specialists in these giant birds. You've got to catch one first and that's your assignment."

Donnie: "That's my assignment? OK."

John: "Get out there with a net and..."

Donnie: "What am I supposed to use as bait?"

John: "Tom Ury."

Donnie: "Tom Ury? OK."

John: "It chased him once."

Donnie: "Yeah, he was obviously interested in him once, wasn't we?"

(We laughed a good while at that. Tom is a friend to both of us and an early Mothman eyewitness.)

Donnie: "What do you believe the Men in Black were and what were their intentions in Point Pleasant during the Mothman sightings of 66' and 67' in your opinion?"

John: "Well, that's another whole can of worms. We had a lot of sightings of these Men in Black, usually in expensive cars. And then it changed. They came around in antique cars that were even more expensive. When I started writing about them in big black Cadillacs, they changed to Volkswagons. They were driving around in Volkswagons. I had the police on alert in several places. If any of these guys had turned up and people were able to call the police, we would've caught one. I wanted to catch one. I knew I couldn't catch this bird, because I couldn't fly. But, I might be able to catch a Cadillac filled with guys in black suits. Then, find out whether they were government agents or what they were."

Donnie: "So, when they saw that you'd published the articles about seeing them in Cadillacs, they obvious saw that and switched to the Volkswagons."

John: "They were always one step ahead of me. Say if I was driving to New Haven, West Virginia, they would show up two or three hours before I got there. And, when I would get there, people would tell me, 'Oh, we thought they were with you' and tell me incredible stories. And, they took photographs of people. They took photographs especially of children, which was a bit disturbing. Somehow, small children were quite involved in this at the time. As you know, some of the people who saw the Mothman had babies with them when they saw the Mothman. I was a little afraid that

maybe these big birds were after the small children. It's been known for hawks to come down and catch a kitten or a dog and carry it off. That was one of the very scary things that I tried not to talk about or promote at the time. I moved around very quietly, because I didn't want to get everyone upset. A lot of people were already upset and if they found that some idiot from New York was down here looking into this the rumors would really fly.

"Mary Hyre took the brunt of all this. She was well-known in the area and people would talk to her. So, I remained in close touch with her when I was back in New York. In fact, the day that the bridge fell down I was in New York and I tried frantically to call her and of course that was impossible. I finally talked to her about three days later and she hadn't had any sleep in three days, because her office was right next to the bridge. You can imagine hearing a loud noise, coming out of your office and saying, 'My God, the bridge is gone.' At that time, that area of Main Street had a number of stores, drug stores and things, right there. I think the police department was also right there. Can you imagine the horror of the sheriff when he stepped outside and saw that? 'What kind of problem is this going to be?' He seems to have done everything right. Some men would've just gone to pieces. He was reasonably well organized. They did a lot of rescue work. There were a lot of boats around the area. The river was very busy in those days with boats. Anybody who had a boat was out there searching for people. And, they got a lot of people out of there alive. Some of the people have remarkable stories. They didn't remember their truck or their car going down, at all. They were suddenly in black water, and then the next thing they knew they were on the surface of the water. And, they don't know how they did it. Of course the water was very cold. You could only last a few minutes in that water.

"That's what impressed me about the movie. Our friend Richard Gere was dressed in a heavy overcoat and boots and everything. He was swimming around that river trying to rescue his lady friend. Which he did. She was in a police car and he broke into the police car, swept her out and swept her to the surface. Only Richard Gere could do that."

Donnie: "How do you believe the Mothman sightings, the Men in Black encounters and the UFO sightings all tie together or do you think they're related, at all?"

John: “Well, all of them seem to be linked because the Men in Black would show up where UFO sightings were taking place. And, in some cases, they would tell the witnesses, ‘Don’t repeat this to anybody, what you’ve seen.’ And, this would scare them even more. For some people, if they were ornery enough, if you tell them to shut up, they’re going to blab all over town. The same with newspapers. If the government came around... Well, people from the government came around to see Mary Hyre after the accident. If the government agent went to the newspapers and said, “Don’t print this,” the editor is going to tell him to go to hell and print it in those days. Today, I’d imagine they would obey. There were a lot of very independent newspaper people in those days.”

Donnie: “Do you think the Mothman is still around this area?”

John: “We would’ve had some evidence of it. We know that a lot of people saw it and didn’t tell anyone for years. We know that a lot of people were very frightened by it. But, if they’re still seeing it, we would’ve heard about it somehow. One of their kids would’ve talked or something. This was another thing about the Men in Black. They would sometimes pursue kids coming home from school. We didn’t want to publicize that. Because that’s really horrible. A friend of mine who was a dentist had a terrible problem. He lived near a school, so his children walked to school every day. And, this black Cadillac kept coming up [and they] kept trying to get the kids into the car. Now this was long before we had all the weirdoes out there like the perverts and the serial killers and all that. He dropped out of the whole thing. He didn’t want to hear any more about it. Because they were after his kids.”

Donnie: “Why do you think that was?”

John: “Well, I don’t know. If I could’ve caught one of those black Cadillacs, I could tell you.”

Donnie: “Your friend; where did he live? Where did this take place?”

John: “This was in New Jersey.”

Donnie: “About the same time as the Mothman sightings here?” [In Point Pleasant]

John: “Roughly, yeah. Things were happening all over the country like this. And in the cases of the black Cadillac, most people are not going to report

this to anybody. If a black Cadillac pulls up in front of your house and a guy gets out with a camera and takes a picture of your house, you're going to think well he's a real estate agent or whatever and they wouldn't report that. Until, suddenly I would come around looking for just that thing. I heard many interesting stories up and down the Ohio Valley. I put a lot of it in the book. I had so many that I couldn't fit them all in the book. They couldn't fit any of it in the movies. They had to be concerned with telling the story and setting the scene and so on. That all takes time. They had to drop a lot of that material."

Donnie: "You're known throughout the world for your investigations into the unexplainable. What advice would you give young researchers who are just beginning their trek into investigating the unknown?"

John: "To leave it alone. Because can accomplish nothing except madness. And, it has driven some people pretty crazy. And, they're all out there writing me nasty letters."

[We laughed a bit at that one]

Donnie: "That's not good."

John: "If you meet someone who's been doing this for twenty years, investigating UFOs, Bigfoot, or whatever, after twenty years, they're pretty crazy. And, they've lost all credibility. Nobody will talk to them about it, which upsets them a lot. Some of them go on the lecture tour. There are people who like to go to these lectures the way you might go to a lecture on growing flowers in your back yard. They like to go and hear people tell about their UFO experience or the Mothman. I've had many offers to lecture on Mothman and I very rarely do it. I've probably done it three or four times in the last thirty years."

Donnie: "Why's that?"

John: "Because first of all, I'm sick of the subject."

Donnie: "Pretty much everything that needs to be said has been said?"

[John nods]

John: "And, the audiences you get to that kind of lecture, I don't need it. I don't need to be around these people that much."

Donnie: “What’s your most memorable paranormal encounter?”

John: “Oh God there were so many, especially in that period. I’ve had mysterious encounters with very beautiful ladies. This would be on trains; where they would sit down and obviously they were assigned to talk to me. So, I wouldn’t tell them anything. And then when the train would pull into the station they’d get up. I don’t know whether they’d go into the ladies’ room or what they would do, but I’d been talking to them for three hours and then they were gone. They were always very well groomed; like a movie star. There were a number of those encounters.”

Donnie: “Those particular encounters, you feel were of a paranormal nature?”

John: “Of some kind, yes. Because, normally women don’t try to pick me up on trains. [Laughs] Maybe barrooms, but not trains.”

Donnie: “Whether or not you know it, like it, or admit it, you have a large following of fans out there who like to know the most trivial of things about you. What’s your favorite food?”

John: “Probably like everybody else, a really good pizza. And, it’s hard to find in New York. We have chains of bad pizzerias in New York. Usually with people of a Spanish extraction making the pizzas. They’d never heard of pizza until they hit New York. I’d say if you ask anybody, that would be one of their favorite foods. That’s why there are pizzerias all over the country.”

Donnie: “What kind of music do you listen to?”

John: “That annoys the hell out of my neighbors. I listen to classical music. We only have two radio stations left in New York that play classical music. My neighbors are all young and listening to rock and roll. “That crazy man down there is listening to Beethoven, who the hell’s Beethoven?” [Laughs] And, I also have a lot of CDs in the car with classical music. I also like jazz. I know a lot about jazz. Because that’s our basic, American music. I’ve even got records [CDs] in the car of bluegrass music. So, my tastes in music are pretty wide. Except, I’m not really a rock and roll fan. When Elvis Presley first appeared on the scene, I thought he was terrible. You see how prophetic I was. [Laughs]

Donnie: “What a movie? What’s your favorite movie?”

John: “Well that’s a cliché, Citizen Kane. You ask any movie buff and they’ll say that. I’ve seen that about ten times.”

Donnie: “Who’s your favorite author?”

John: “Well. There are so many. I think the biggest influence on me when I was a kid was Earnest Hemmingway. He had a style. He wrote between the lines. In those days, if you wanted to be a writer, you had to be able to do that. In other words, you didn’t say what you meant. But, the reader had to interpret. He had a very simple style. That made him very, very famous. And, a lot of writers imitated him for generations afterwards.”

Donnie: “That’s one big mistake a lot of writers make; assuming the reader is dumb. Over-explaining things, etc. That is a big turnoff to a lot of readers.”

John: “Yeah. He knew how to do it. If you read his books today, it’s all so simple. If he’s telling a war story, he doesn’t go into great detail about the battle scene. Charlie stuck his head out of the foxhole and got it blown off and then right to the next one.”

Donnie: “What is your favorite book?”

John: “There are so many out there. I read a great deal. Well, my eyes are bad, now, but I used to read, on average, five books a week. I read very fast, or I could read very fast. I could read a book in an hour. Not that I could memorize it in an hour, but I could get the just of it. I very seldom read novels. I read a lot of non-fiction of different types. When I was a kid reading my way through the library, I took an interest in radio and electronics, which in those days was in a very primitive stage. That was one of the smartest things I ever did, because I kept up with it. And so, as the computer stuff came along I was prepared for it. Today, I don’t know how they teach the kids the basics of electronics. They obviously do. I don’t remember any of the terms from those days. About all the circuits and everything. I could repair radios. My family thought this was a total waste of time. Everything I did was a total waste of time.” [Laughs]

Donnie: “Well, you’ve obviously proved a lot of people wrong.”

John: “Today if you could find that book, it’s worthless. Because, it was a very primitive book on the subject.”

Donnie: “You wrote a book about transistors?”

John: “Yeah, but it was a very simplified thing, because nobody knew much about it. We didn’t know what they could do. We didn’t know how to handle them. It was almost a mystery; the transistors.”

Donnie: “About what year was this?”

John: “It was in the fifties, I think. I tried to make a transistor radio, because there were stores in New York where you could buy all the pieces and the parts. My radio failed. It got too hot or something. I didn’t get those transistors in right. I built other radios with tubes and all that, but I failed at the transistor radio. Then, I realized my career in electronics was over.

[Laughs]

“Well, you know the Wright brothers had to invent everything. They had to invent the propeller. Nobody had any idea how a propeller would work on an airplane. They had invented every part of the airplane in order to build one. That was in 1903. And, by 1912, there were so many people building better airplanes that the Wright brothers, well, one of them died, but the other Wright brother just sold everything and all of his patents and got out of the business. He couldn’t keep up with it. And, it went on and of course became a big war machine. But, it’s fascinating. By the end of this year, you’ll be hearing a lot about the Wright Brothers. It wasn’t genius, it was very hard work. They had to build world’s first wind tunnel so they see the effect of the air on the wings and all that. They had to build all this stuff from scratch.

“And, by the way, just a few weeks ago I saw a Wright plane take off and fly one hundred feet. There’s an air museum in Rhinebeck, New York and they have one of the Wright brothers’ actual planes. They stage an air show in the summertime every Sunday. It’s a wonderful show, because they have airplanes from World War I and some of the very early airplanes. Like the Bleriot planes. The flew this Wright brothers plane with a guy sitting on a wing and the plane barely chugging along at whatever it was, twenty miles an hour; thirty miles an hour, and they didn’t go very far with it. About one hundred feet off the ground and one hundred or two hundred feet long. The Wright brothers’ planes were notorious for crashing every time they landed. So, every time they landed they had to build another airplane.” [Laughs]

Donnie: “What else comes to mind concerning the years you spent on research that you believe your readers would be interested in or find useful?”

John: “Well, if the reader is really, really interested in this stuff, you have to study the universe itself. And, there is a book out there that’s been a best seller for the last five or six years. It’s called ‘The Elegant Universe’. It’s heavy reading, but it’s the best book on the subject. It’s written by Brian... I can’t think of his last name. [The author’s name here is Brian Greene] But, you can go to any big book store or library and they will have this book The Elegant Universe. It sort of defines what we know about the universe. That’s very important. Forget about defining things around us. Try to define our place in the universe. I don’t think we have much of a place in the universe. We’re just a little bubble of water filled with all kinds of peculiar life forms; billions of them. Whether or not there are other little bubbles of water out there we may never know. Because, we would have to fly many light years away to find it. They keep telling us that they’re finding planets, but they’re too close to a star and anything on it would be fried. And, if the Earth was just in a slightly different position, life would be impossible on the Earth. If we were a little closer to the sun, or a little further away, we would be freezing. If we ever get to Mars, chances are one day we will get there, the climate and everything is so bad that we would never really be able to settle Mars like we settled Virginia. We would have to just say that we’ve been there. Well, we landed on the moon thirty years ago. When I was a kid that seemed like an impossible dream. And, we did it ten or twelve times and we haven’t done it since. Which, is kind of sad. But, the funding ran out. If we wanted to go to the moon, again, if we decided tomorrow to do it, it would take us five or ten years to build the equipment we needed. We’ve even destroyed all of the blueprints for those rockets. Going to Mars is the last big challenge, because I don’t think can go any further than that. We would get in a dust storm.” [Laughs]

Donnie: “As this will be read, world-wide, what would you like to say to all of your readers and followers?”

John: “This is going to be read world-wide, huh? That’s disgusting in itself. [Chuckles] I don’t know. I’ve run out of advice to give people. I think so much of it is hopeless. So much we will never know. For example, people have been chasing ghosts since the beginning of time. Five thousand years

ago. And, we really don't know that much about ghosts. You know, there are many, many theories about the returning dead people and so on, but it's really hard. What would be wrapping on the wall at a twelve-year-old boy? Maybe it's something inside me. An energy inside me that's trying to come out there. We are doing more studies now on the human being than we've ever done before. That's some important stuff. We've got to learn a lot more about the human being and why young men willingly go off to war and why we do these stupid things. This planet has so much on it that has to be explored. There are billions of life forms on this planet in every shape and form.

"If I were a young person going into science, I'd pick out one of these forms and just study it. There are plants two hundred miles down in the ocean. There are all kinds of strange things in the deserts. I know many years ago, I was in the Sahara Desert and I went to Baghdad and so on. And, you get out into the middle of the desert and it looks hopeless. It's bloody hot. You turn over a rock and there are things living under it. Life can adjust to anything, and has, on this planet. In the ocean itself we've got millions of life forms. And, they survive by eating each other. We've got birds everywhere. They survive by either eating all the insects and worms or by eating each other. If you even watch a hawk dive down on a bird, he's taking the bird home for dinner. That's the way nature has worked it out. We go out and we hit a cow in the head with a sledgehammer. Although, they have improved methods, now."

Donnie: "To get a hamburger."

John: "Yeah. The more you study all this stuff, the more there is to study. That's why in science, they all specialize. If they're going to study the poison ivy, there are guys that spend their entire lives studying that one thing. Or, if you're a doctor, and you wanted to learn about the human heart, there are doctors, of course they make a fortune along the way, but there are doctors that do nothing but study the human heart. It's an age of specialization. It used to be, if you were a doctor, you had to know everything and about every miserable disease. But, now they're all specialized.

"And, it's the same with writers. Writers today specialize in all different things. Like Mark Twain would go out and write about everything. A writer

today is just going to write about, unfortunately, a lot of politics. A lot of people waste their lives writing about politics. You go back and read the political writings of ten years ago and say, 'Why did they bother?' Now of it was true. None of it happened. We were fighting the cold war for twenty or thirty years. But, when you get to be my age and it looks, not hopeless, but very difficult. We have the big problem of education. How do you educate people for the world to come? Today kids are playing with computers at the age of seven. They know more about electronics than I know at seventy-three. Where is it all going to end?

"One day something will fall out of the sky and hit the Earth and burn it to a cinder."

And, that's where the interview ended. We spoke a little more off the record about common, everyday things, but nothing of note. One thing I will note, however, is the demeanor and human nature of the man himself. John was a joy to be around and talk to. His knowledge stretched beyond what I will grasp for many years to come. It was absolutely fascinating to direct the interview from humble beginnings to serious research and just let John go where he wanted to go with it. He surprised me more than once with his candidness. He will be missed by many, many people.

Exclusive Will Patton Interview

(Actor known for Armageddon, Gone in 60 Seconds, Remember the Titans, etc...)

I had the pleasure of spending time with an actor who will be in the upcoming movie, "The Mothman Prophecies." Will Patton (Armageddon, Gone in 60 Seconds, Remember the Titans, Copycat, Entrapment, and dozens more movies and television shows such as "24") was in Point Pleasant, West Virginia to check out the area for his role in the upcoming movie, and of his own curiosity for our area in general. After trying to explain to him how to make his way to Chief Cornstalk Wildlife Management Area here in Mason County, a nearly impossible feat for anyone not familiar with this area, I offered to drive him there myself. He was delighted and accepted the offer. Just for the record, Will is a genuine human being. Very down to earth and polite. It was an honor making his acquaintance. That said, here we go...

We drove through Point Pleasant, taking in some scenery and local businesses along the way. After we stopped at Speedway (a local quick stop gas station/convenience store), filling the car up with gas, and grabbing a coffee for the ride, we headed for Krodel Park, and then Cornstalk. Will had only two days to take in as much as he could before heading to his next destination. He had already visited the Battle Monument State Park in Point Pleasant, WV, and the Silver Bridge Memorial in Gallipolis, OH the day before. He had also stopped the day before to ask me about the TNT area. He visited TNT, as well, later that afternoon. Will had plenty of time to give me his outlook on the areas he had seen, as I drove. So, I asked him if he would mind giving me permission to use his words for you to see, here on the site. He said he would be more than happy to give me an exclusive interview for the site and the viewers. What he gave me to use on the record is seen below. Enjoy...

The first part of the interview was before Will and I had left for our journey to Chief Cornstalk WMA...

Donnie Sergeant Jr: "How do you like the city of Point Pleasant, so far?"

Will Patton: "It's very unique. I'm just sort of feeling it right now. I'm just checking it out. The hotel (Lowe Hotel) is pretty amazing. I've never been

in a hotel like that. It was founded in 1901?”

Donnie: “Yes.”

Will: “Each room is different. You wouldn’t expect to see it, because the town seems empty in a way. There seems to be a lot of stuff going on, but at the same time it seems that nothing is going on. Quiet and empty, yet full. And the hotel is kind of like that too. It feels like a grand hotel, and yet there’s a lot of empty rooms. It seems that at one point this was a booming river town. It seems like a really interesting town. It seems to be in a place where there should be a lot more happening. I could see that it could be thriving. I wish I could hang out here for a long time. I’ve only got twenty-four hours. Yeah, I could walk around here for a long time just checking it out.”

Donnie: “It’s definitely serene.”

Will: “Yeah, it is.”

Donnie: “If you want to go anywhere or do anything, it’s close by. At the same time, if you just want to sit down and relax quietly, you can.”

Will: “Yeah. I’m really curious about the whole Chief Cornstalk thing. I think people should talk about that more. Maybe the curse is over. If it was the curse that caused a lot of this stuff, you people have sure paid enough, with the bridge (falling of the Silver Bridge) and everything. Maybe the town should offer him a peace offering of some sort.”

*This is where I explained to Will that Chief Cornstalk was also an actual area, a Wildlife Management Area in Mason County, WV. So, we took off for a ride. After we finished our excursion, I took him to the Mason County Library. He wanted to do some more research about the area and the legends. This is where he gave me the last part of the interview.

Donnie: “What did you think about the TNT area?”

Will: “I went out to the TNT area last night. It was right before the sun was going down. I drove around out there a little bit. There was a park ranger out there that I talked to. He told me that he’d been out there for thirteen years and he’d never seen anything. He pointed out the igloos. I drove around up in there and drove down one of those side roads where the igloos were, just as the sun was going down. I can see how a person could begin to

either imagine, or actually encounter, something out in those parts. Whether it's whatever they were making out there during the war created an atmosphere, or those igloos or something in the ground from way back, something we don't even know about... I'd be really curious to be out there in the middle of the night. I'm going to have to work myself up to that. Those igloos were very, very spooky, also. Because it kind of implies something hidden. You know what I mean? Just something hidden...something mysterious. Something also unexplainable. With the combination of all those things together you've got a kind of feeling. It's a very mysterious area. It feels somehow seductive, yet somehow scary. Something that makes you want to keep exploring, but something that makes you want to get away at the same time. That's my experience with TNT so far, that I can articulate."

Donnie: "What do think about the Chief Cornstalk WMA?"

Will: "Basically, that's just a beautiful place. I hope everybody takes care of that."

*During our discussions about this area, Will told me about something that he experienced during his visit that he did NOT want me to put in this interview. He told me that I COULD add this little note to the end of the interview to let people know that there are definitely unexplainable things happening here. Also, Will said that he enjoyed the area and commented about the natural beauty of the forests and landscape. Will, after you read this, know that you are more than welcome in our town, anytime. I hope I've done you justice with this interview.

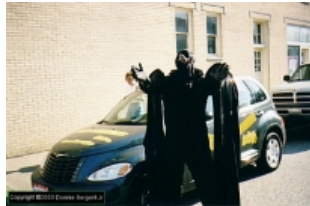
With that said, if you are not from this area and plan on visiting, you are more than welcome in our town.

Mothman Festival 2003

Point Pleasant, West Virginia The 2nd Annual Mothman Festival was a great success. People drove and flew in from all over the United States and the world to attend. It was a pleasure for me and Jeff to talk to people we haven't seen for a while, as well as meet new people. The 2003 festival had a special guest: The late author John A. Keel. John signed autographs and spoke to as many people as time allowed. There was also a special ceremony to kick off the festival. Bob Roach's 12-foot-tall stainless steel Mothman sculpture was a grand unveiling. Bob was a local artist and sculptor who has created several sculptures from stainless steel. He has since passed and my condolences go out to his family and friends. He was a very kind man. Stainless steel is hard to work with, but will never rust. The red eyes in the sculpture were created especially for this tribute to the Mothman by Blenko Glass Company Inc. located in Milton, WV. This company has been a premiere glass crafting organization since 1893. Local crafters set up tables to display and sell their creations from around West Virginia. There were some beautiful and unique items here this year. Several bands from the surrounding area entertained onlookers with a variety of music styles. Several news and documentary crews were on hand to capture the event on film. Local radio stations broadcast special giveaways and news about the festival, as well. The Mothman Festival is set to become an annual event here in Point Pleasant, WV. So, feel free to stop by, enjoy the annual festival, and enjoy the various other attractions in the Point Pleasant, West Virginia area. For festival news and updates visit www.mothmanfestival.com and browse around. Below are twenty-five small photos to get an idea of what to expect if you visit.

For up-to-date information concerning the Mothman Festival, visit the following website: <http://www.mothmanfestival.com/>

-Donnie Sergeant Jr





The Birdhouse AKA The North Power Plant located in the TNT Area Directly before the CD-ROM version of this book (No longer in production) was finished, Daniel Carter e-mailed a few photos of the North Power Plant, known locally as "The Birdhouse." The North Power Plant stood for several years in the TNT area before being declared condemned, torn down and buried. It was off limits to the general public, but local teens would sneak in for a late night fright fest to tell scary stories or to just hang out far away from town. Daniel caught up to me in Point Pleasant and offered to let me use these photos to give current Mothman enthusiasts a glimpse of what the building looked like before its demise. All photos were taken by Daniel, most of which were taken for a few of his friends, members of a local band called "The Draggin' Flies." Some of these photos center around the band members of 1992, but I chose to include all photos, so you could see even the minutest details of the plant structure from various locations and angles. Just outside this very building is where the Mothman was first sighted by Linda Scarberry and friends in November, 1966.

-Donnie Sargent Jr









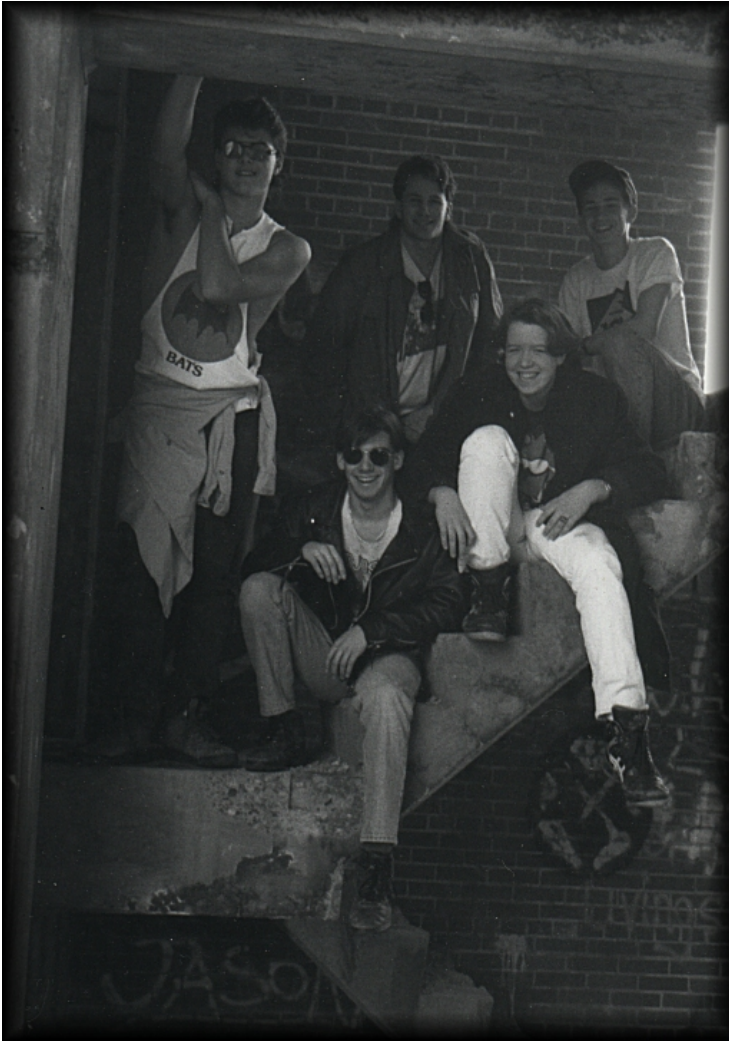














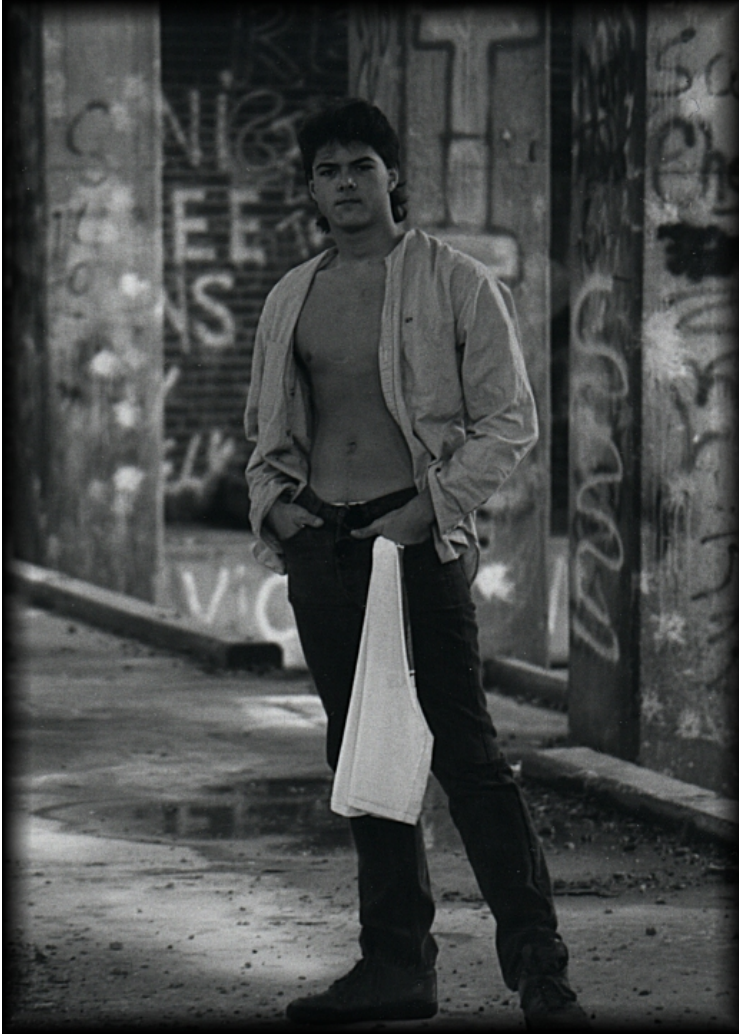


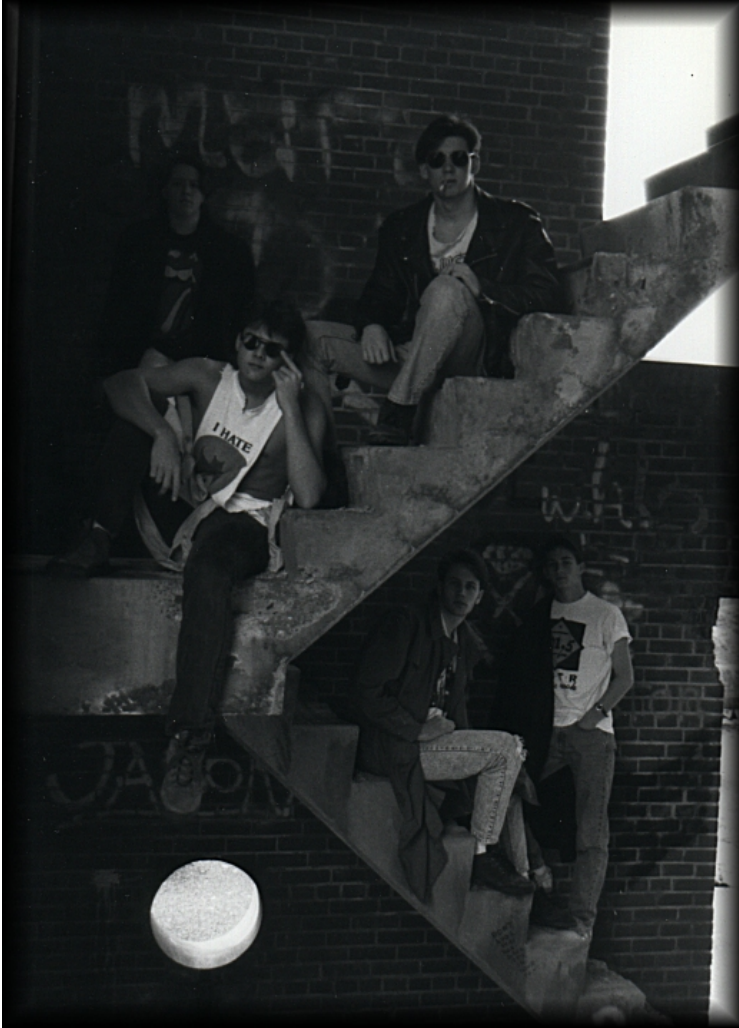


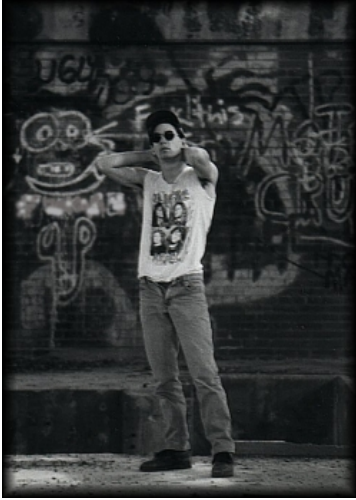




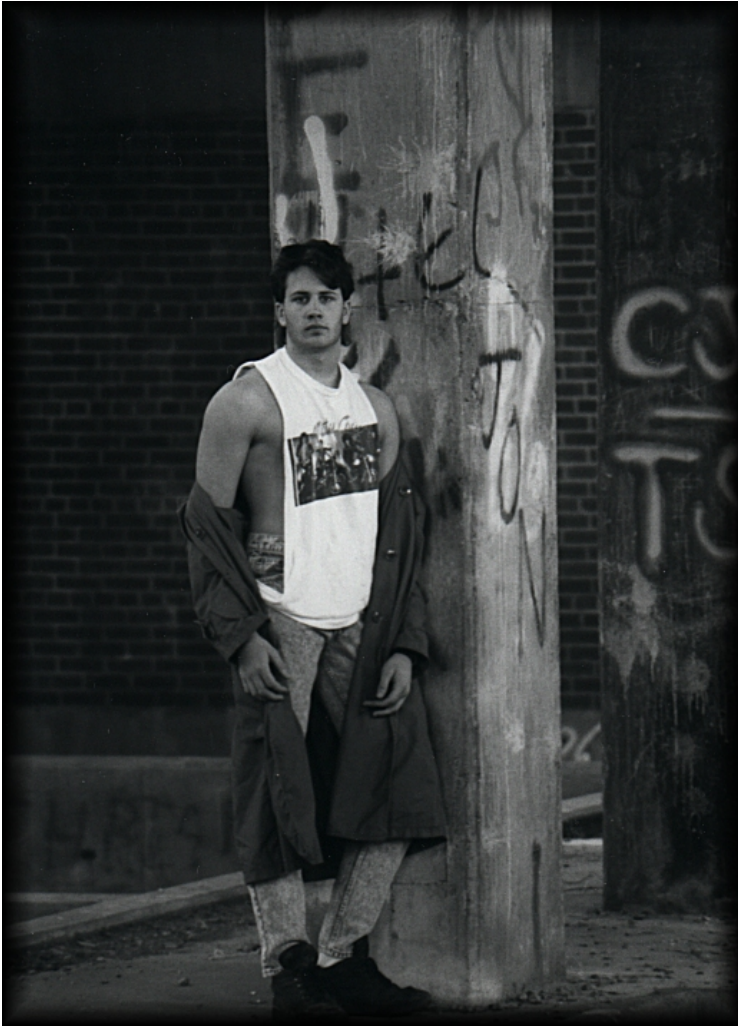






























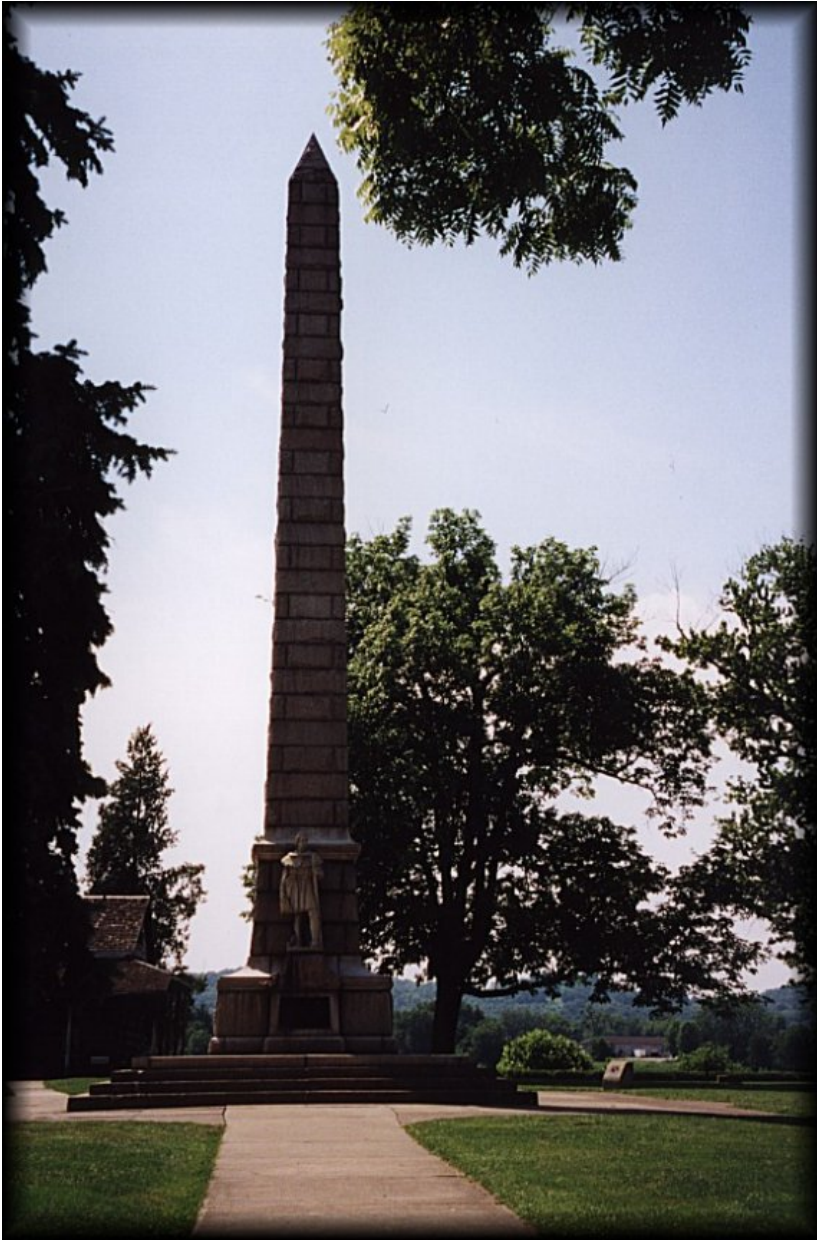




Tu-Endie-Wei State Park Point Pleasant, West Virginia The Tu-Endie-Wei State Park in Point Pleasant, West Virginia is the site of the Point Pleasant Battle Monument and similar historical objects. This point of land is where the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers meet and played a key role in the Battle of Point Pleasant. Below are full-color photographs allowing you to take a virtual tour of the park. These photos were taken by me during the summer of 2001. Additional information, including tourist info, can be found on the Internet by going to www.callwva.com. You may also call toll-free 1-800-CALL-WVA. Enjoy these scenic photos of this historical site.

-Donnie Sergent Jr

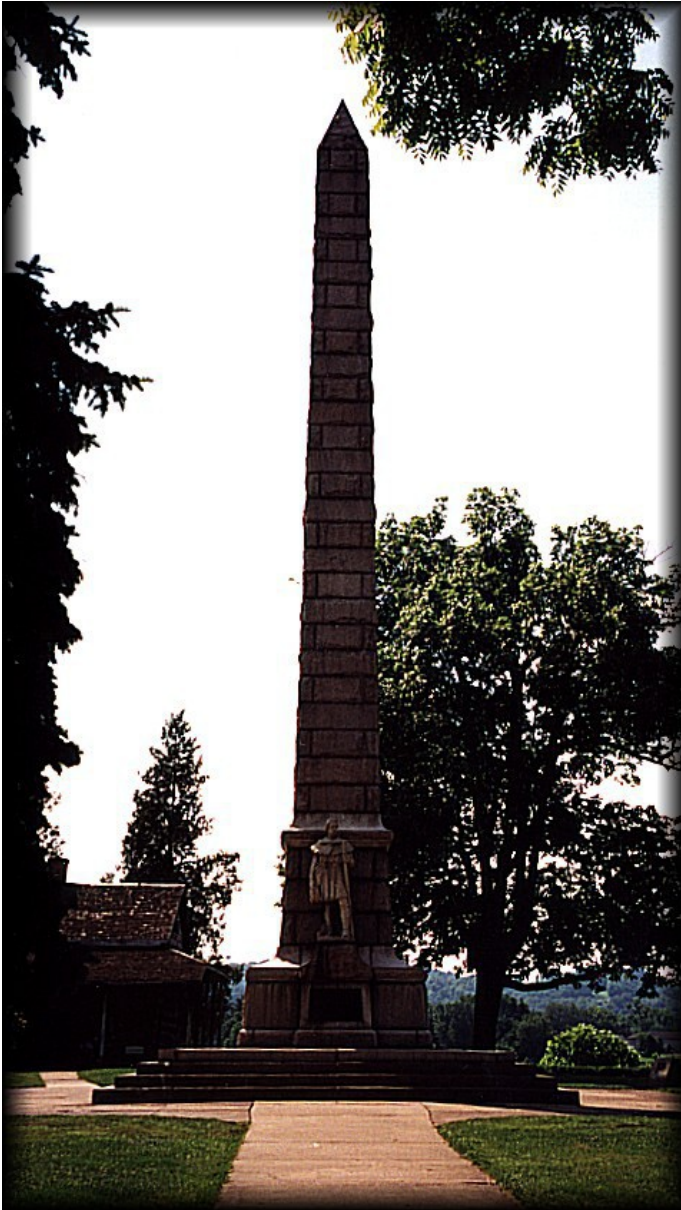






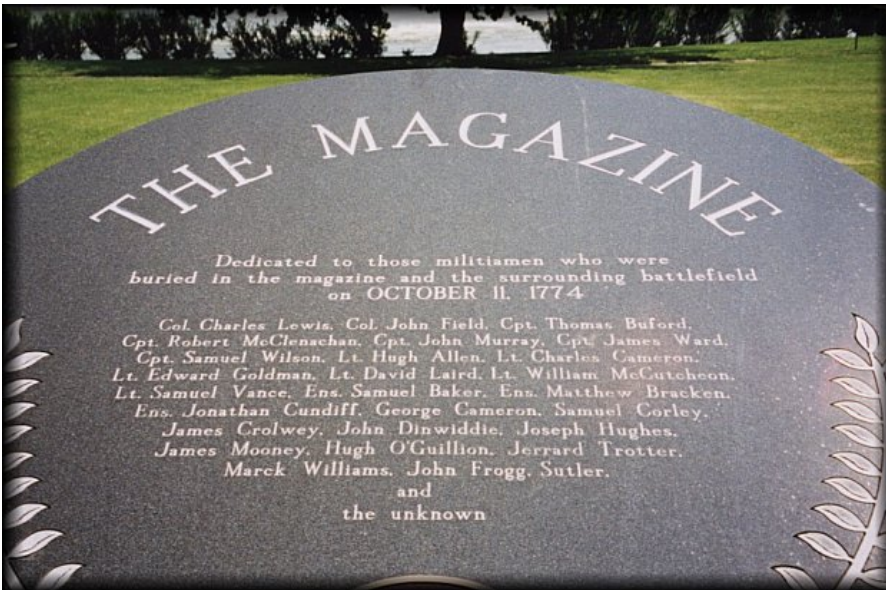


























Fort Randolph inside Krodel Park Point Pleasant, West Virginia
Krodel Park in Point Pleasant, West Virginia is the site of the Fort Randolph structure. Below are full-color photographs allowing you to take a walk around the fort and get a general idea of what it looks like, along with a couple photos of the Krodel Park Lake. All photos were taken by me during November of 2001. Additional information, including tourist info, can be on the Internet by going to www.callwva.com. You may also call toll-free 1-800-CALL-WVA. Enjoy these scenic photos of this historical site.

-Donnie Sergeant Jr









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